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Yazov: Gulf war will be murder

ROME (AP) — The Soviet defence minister was quoted Saturday as saying that bombing of civilians in the Gulf would be tantamount to murder and he couldn't see his country intervening militarily. In an interview with the Turin newspaper La Stampa, Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov was asked about the possibility of the United States attacking Iraq and to explain the Soviet position. "I don't exclude it. The Americans have concentrated about 170,000 men, plus 1,000 warplanes and 500 tanks. They have enough forces to execute an attack but I don't believe it's the thing to do because one cannot avoid war with war, that would only demonstrate that confronted with the strong, the weak are always guilty," Yazov was quoted as saying. "Certainly Saddam (Hussein) ... is an aggressor, but what do the civilians, who would be the ones to die, have to do with anything? As for us, I cannot decide for the government, but if war breaks out I don't believe we would intervene. You see, we have announced to the entire world that we would limit ourselves to defending the territory within our own borders. To go to fight for Kuwait, or for Iraq, for us, makes no sense," he said.

Saddam: U.S. threat led to annexation

ANKARA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was quoted in a Turkish newspaper Saturday as saying the decision to merge Kuwait with Iraq was prompted by the U.S. military threat in the Gulf. In the second installment of an interview with Baghdad by former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit for the Istanbul daily Milliyet, Saddam was quoted as saying: "Kuwait is now ours... we might have refrained from taking such a decision if the U.S. troops were not massed in the region with the threat of invading us." He said if the United States had not sent its troops to the region, Iraq would have attempted to develop the status of the temporary revolutionary administration proclaimed in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion Aug. 2. Saddam said the temporary government in Kuwait was not strong enough to take a position against the U.S. troops. "We would not be able to ask from our people and armed forces to fight until the last drop of their blood, if we had not said that Kuwait was now part of Iraq... we would not be able to prepare Iraqi public opinion for the possibility of war," he added. Saddam said he believed a solution could be found to the problems only with a discussion among Arabs.

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King cables good wishes to Fahd

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on his country's national day. The King wished the Saudi monarch continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Saudi Arabian people. Saudi Arabia cancelled celebrations Sunday marking its national day as a mark of solidarity with Kuwait, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Saturday. "This day is a day of solidarity with the state of Kuwait in the painful tragedy because of the brutal Iraqi aggression and the deep wounds it caused to its people and government," it quoted a royal court statement as saying. The Sept. 23 anniversary marks the merger of Najd in the central Arabia and the western area of Hijaz to form the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 48 years ago.

Fahd contacts Hassan II, Mubarak

AMMAN (J.T.) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has telephoned King Hassan II of Morocco and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan Television reported Saturday. It said the three leaders discussed the Gulf crisis. The contacts follow a meeting His Majesty King Hussein held with Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid in Rabat last week.

Tunis sends peace message to Iraq

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hamad Karoui left for Baghdad Saturday with a letter from President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, officials said. The Tunisian news agency TAP said the message was "within the framework of steps to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis." Tunisia has proposed a solution based on five principles: An Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, replacement of Western forces in the Gulf with Arab peacekeepers, freedom for foreign civilians held in Iraq and solutions for disputes between Kuwait and Iraq and the Middle East conflict. Karoui's delegation includes Foreign Minister Habib Boularès and two parliamentary deputies, Beji Cai Essebsi and Mabrouk Azzam.

Aoun says reforms 'stillborn'

BEIRUT (AP) — Reforms signed by President Elias Hrawi to end Lebanon's civil war are "stillborn" rebel General Michel Aoun was quoted Saturday as saying. Aoun did not respond directly to Hrawi's invitation to join the peace process or face a military assault to force him from the Christian enclave he occupies northeast of Beirut. Hrawi Friday signed into law constitutional reforms to give Muslims an equal share of power with the long-dominant Christians.

'Coup' in Khartoum reported from Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military leaders have foiled the second coup attempt in five months, staged by junior and retired army officers, Arab diplomats in Cairo said Saturday. They said some of the plotters were arrested but could not confirm a report in Egypt's Al Wafd newspaper that 12 officers and other soldiers had been executed. There was a coup attempt on Sept. 8, but it was quickly contained before its launch, a diplomat in Khartoum told Reuters by telephone. Officials in Sudan, whose devastated economy has for years been a cause of political instability, said by phone they were unaware of any new coup attempt.

Saudi desert heat begins to drop

SAUDI ARABIA (R) — Desert temperatures have fallen sharply since U.S. soldiers began arriving in Saudi Arabia's scorching heat six days ago. U.S. marines at a desert air base said peak daytime temperatures had dropped around 20 degrees Fahrenheit (11 centigrade) to a more tolerable 37 (99) F.

'We must avert an expulsion area that would cause untold death, destruction and misery'

King addresses Americans

Jordan had no prior knowledge of Iraqi takeover of Kuwait ● It continues to recognise the emiri government ● Priority must be given to defusing tension but credible assurances needed that other problems will be addressed ● All governments should be encouraged to democratise

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday called on the American Congress and people to support a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis that would allow the withdrawal of the multinational forces from the Gulf and avert war and destruction. In a letter addressed to the U.S. Congress and American people, broadcast live from Amman on Cable News Network (CNN) television, the King also denied that Jordan had any advance knowledge or role in Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

This highly inflammable area straddling the world's richest oil reserves that would cause untold death, destruction and misery with disastrous repercussions far beyond this vital region and this period of human life," the King said. There was no immediate comment from the White House. But, representative a senior member of the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, said "the effort of the King must be respected. The message of the King must be questioned."

In a brief interview after reading out the 30-minute appeal, the King was asked what his "gut feeling" was of the Gulf situation and how the crisis could be resolved. The King replied: "I am worried, I am really concerned because by miscalculation, design, any quarter could ignite this situation and the results will be devastating for the region, for the world for a very long time to come."

Following is the full text of the King's message read out on CNN: A THOUGHTFUL, perceptive, humane letter of encouragement from an American citizen by the name of Mr. Edwin Brown, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, which I recently received, helped reinvigorate my belief in the ultimate decency and sense of fair play of the American people, and indeed in the decency of mankind.

He wrote that: "It must be tempting for you to conclude that all your efforts to restore some sanity in high places are futile, and not even understood by the millions of the relatively innocent who will bear the brunt of any military, social and economic debacle. And yet you are at this moment launched on one last, inept effort to convince your official counterparts throughout the Arab World of the folly of a military solution."

Mr. Brown went on to suggest that maybe what America needs is not an additional ally "but a friend ready to speak truth to power." That "if the Hashemite Kingdom is to play such a role, may these words of counsel, which I learned so long ago that I no longer remember their source, sustain you. 'If your cause is worthy it is not necessary to hope in order to undertake, nor is it necessary to succeed in order to persevere.'"

I shall, after thirty seven years of service amongst my people in Jordan and in the Arab World, and with a total commitment to justice, peace and human rights and dignity, and for as long as what remains of my life, remember Mr. Brown's letter and cherish his sentiments with gratitude. He quoted an American statesman who had earned my admiration and respect, the late Adlai Stevenson, as saying after his electoral defeat, "I'm like the boy who badly stubbed his toe... too old to cry, too frank to pretend it didn't hurt."



(Continued on page 4)

Iraq says Bush may use 'terrorism' as ploy to attack

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday it feared U.S. President George Bush would use alleged concern over "terrorism" as a ploy to launch attacks of his own against Iraq. Bush said at a news conference Friday that he was increasingly concerned about possible "terrorist" attacks by Iraq and that he would hold Iraqi President Saddam Hussein responsible for any "acts of terrorism" against U.S. interests.

This intentional signal from Bush — despite the great U.S. military concentration in Najd and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia) — raises in us many doubts and fears that the U.S. administration is planning a terrorist act that will use the alleged terrorist threat as a pretext for aggression," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. INA also ridiculed Bush's allegation that mass demonstrations in Baghdad after a videotaped message by the American president was broadcast a week ago were staged.

Iraqi Television broadcast Bush's message last Sunday, in which he said Saddam was leading Iraq "once again" to the brink of war and ruin by the Aug. 2 invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Shortly after the broadcast, thousands of Iraqis paraded through Baghdad shouting "Death to Bush" and "Death to America."

Baghdad announces diplomatic ousters

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq Saturday announced it was expelling the military attaches of the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and seven European Community (EC) countries. The Iraqi News Agency (INA), confirming reports from several capitals, quoted a foreign ministry source as announcing the expulsion of the military attaches. It said their bureaux in the embassies of France, Germany, Spain, Holland, Greece, Britain, Italy, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United States would be closed.

Jordan seeks non-Iraqi oil to offset Saudi cut-off

Fuel rationing may be needed — Taher New gas well to yield equivalent to 3,000 bpd

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will have to resort to imports of oil from sources other than Iraq following Wednesday night's cut-off by Saudi Arabia of its daily supply of 33,000 barrels since early September, Minister of Energy and Oil Resources Taher Al Taher said Saturday.

The Kingdom gets part of its oil needs from Iraq despite the international embargo on Iraq. "Technical problems in importing all of its oil needs from Iraq force us to seek oil from other sources after the Saudi closure of the pipeline as of midnight Sept. 19," Taher was quoted as saying by Petra.

Iraq entrenched in Kuwait; U.S., allies pour in troops

Baghdad 'has powerful bomb, anti-mask acid'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The United States and its allies are rushing more troops and heavy armour to the Gulf amid reports that Iraq has bolstered its forces in and around Kuwait to 360,000 men. Washington says Baghdad's reinforcements included 500 additional tanks, bringing its total in the area since its Aug. 2 invasion to 2,800.

Western intelligence reports said the Iraqis were digging defensive positions. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told his people Friday to brace themselves for war. The multinational force in the Gulf has grown relentlessly. About 4,200 French troops, including a Foreign Legion force, began leaving for Saudi Arabia Friday. Three British minichuters reached the Gulf and Britain said its 6,000 troops, 120 tanks and extra Tornado fighters ordered to the region could be placed under U.S. tactical control.

Egyptian defence sources said Cairo would have 20,000 troops and more than 300 tanks based in the region by this weekend. Its contingent could eventually total 35,000. NATO agreed Wednesday to send extra AWACS spy planes to Turkey and eight warships to the East Mediterranean, alliance sources said. Argentina said Tuesday it would send a destroyer, a corvette and 450 personnel to the Gulf. Japan said it planned to send non-combatant personnel. Tokyo approved a fund for non-military supplies for the multinational force and an official said the first instalment would be \$900 million.

The United States dominates the multinational force, with at least 115,000 troops in Saudi Arabia alone. Weapons was provided by West Germany and other Western companies, the magazine reported. Iraq was the first Third World country to gain possession of a bomb that releases a shock wave nearly equal in destructive force to that of a small nuclear device, Spiegel said. The bomb was developed by the West German armaments concern Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB), Spiegel said. The device was delivered to Iraq via Egypt, it added.

Spiegel also said West Germany's intelligence service had informed American officials that Iraq was producing highly concentrated prussic acid at three facilities in Samarra. The acid can destroy gas masks used to counter an attack by chemical weapons. American and British troops in the Gulf already have begun receiving gas masks with a different filter that is resistant to prussic acid, Spiegel said.

Two other Iraqi facilities in Samarra are producing poison gas, the magazine said. The Samarra facilities were built with help from West German and French firms, Spiegel said.

He wrote that: "It must be tempting for you to conclude that all your efforts to restore some sanity in high places are futile, and not even understood by the millions of the relatively innocent who will bear the brunt of any military, social and economic debacle. And yet you are at this moment launched on one last, inept effort to convince your official counterparts throughout the Arab World of the folly of a military solution."

Uprising violence continues

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli policeman was stabbed and wounded in the West Bank Saturday while troops and Palestinians clashed in the Gaza Strip for the second day running following Thursday's killing of an Israeli soldier.

Palestinian sources said a young Palestinian woman stabbed and slightly wounded a border policeman in Tulkarm in the West Bank. They said the army had placed a curfew on the town. Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in clashes overnight in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said. Palestinians reported fighting at the Mughazi, Shati and Khan Younis refugee camps.

Police said a fire believed set by Palestinian nationalists destroyed interior ministry offices in Arab Jerusalem early Saturday. An army spokeswoman said an order declaring the entire Gaza Strip a closed military zone after the soldier's killing was lifted Saturday, but a curfew at Bureij remained in effect.

Assad, Rafsanjani hold private talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad carrying Western hopes of stiffening Iran's approach to Iraq, met privately with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday.

Their talks were believed to have focused on Tehran's suggestion it may send food and medicine to Iraq and also on the fate of 13 Western hostages in Lebanon. Tehran Radio did not say how long Assad and Rafsanjani talked in private. But the broadcast said the two leaders later began their first official round of talks, which were attended by Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi and his Syrian counterpart, Abdul Halim Khaddam.

S. Arabia expels Yemeni diplomats

SANAA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has ordered 30 Yemeni diplomats and 20 support staff to leave the kingdom, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

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Security Council to meet Tuesday at foreign minister level to study draft resolution

Yemen says Iraq air embargo will be piracy

PARIS (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Friday an air embargo against Iraq would be an act of piracy and his country would do its best to make it fail.

Saleh, whose country is a member of the United Nations Security Council, stopped short of threatening an outright breach of an air embargo, saying Yemen would show solidarity with decisions taken by the international community.

Speaking on the French television Channel TF1 from Yemen's capital Sanaa, Saleh said: "It would be an act of piracy... which looks to us more like banditry than international law."

"We cannot approve this measure and we will do everything possible to make it fail and render it inapplicable."

Yemen has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but has criticised the decision to deploy thousands of foreign troops on Iraq's borders.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are drafting a resolution on an air embargo against Iraq, to try to ensure the world breaks all commercial contact with Baghdad.

Saleh said an air embargo would not be useful. "It's not a good idea," he said.

Western intelligence experts suspect Yemen, like Libya, of breaching the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

The new resolution aims to close any loopholes in the embargo imposed by the U.N. Security Council Aug. 6, four days after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Air traffic to Iraq and Kuwait has already been reduced to a trickle. The draft calls on all states to stop aircraft from any nation flying over their territory to or from Iraq unless the plane lands first for inspection and possible detention.

Yemen's ambassador to the United Nations, Abdullah Saleh Al Ashtal, has drawn up a separate resolution calling on states to renew efforts to achieve a peaceful political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The resolution was not meant as a substitute to the air embargo draft, he said, but added: "We have to talk about peace sometimes, too."

The Security Council will meet at the foreign ministers' level on Tuesday in an attempt to adopt the air embargo resolution.

But diplomats cautioned Fri-

day that the resolution might not be ready for approval by the ministers, who are being asked to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Soviet U.N. Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov, current council president, said in a statement he intended to call a meeting on Tuesday and that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would chair the session.

The highly-unusual move, coinciding with the U.N. General Assembly, has long been advocated by the Soviet Union and was picked up by the United States this week in an effort to show solidarity in the Gulf crisis.

A U.S. official in New York said he expected all but three of the 15-member council's foreign ministers to be at the United Nations next week for the General Assembly session. The three — from Cuba, Romania and Ivory Coast — were being asked to change their schedules if possible.

The resolution has been agreed on in principle by the council's five permanent members: the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France, but is still undergoing last-minute alterations.

A U.S. official said Washington inserted some amendments to

ensure that the council would not have to pass yet another resolution to tighten up the worldwide trade embargo it has imposed.

In addition non-aligned nations on the council, sensitive to being taken for granted by the big five, first want to study the draft and may offer amendments of their own.

States also are called on to detain ships of Iraqi registry which enter their ports and have been used in violation of the embargo.

Countries are reminded that the trade embargo includes freezing Iraq's known assets abroad.

In addition to the five permanent members, the 10 non-permanent states who serve on the council on a rotating basis are Canada, Cuba, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Yemen, Ethiopia, Finland, Malaysia, Romania, Zaire.

It will be the eighth time since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2 that the Security Council has condemned the invasion. It already has repudiated the annexation of Kuwait, imposed sweeping trade sanctions and authorised a maritime embargo.

It will be the second time that the Security Council has called for an air embargo. The first time

was in May 1968 when sanctions were imposed against the white minority government of Rhodesia. But implementation was negligible and U.N. officials said that embargo was too porous to really have an impact.

"That's why this example is so interesting," said one U.N. official. "Sanctions are working now as they never have worked before and this lends new credence to sanctions as a tool in peacekeeping."

Brian Urquhart, former under-secretary-general in charge of peacekeeping, said in an interview Thursday about the U.N. sanctions: "This will be a genuine turning point in human history because this will be the test of whether collective security is a valid response to aggression."

Iraq has repudiated all U.N. resolutions condemning its action and has said that the trade embargo will mean the starvation of Iraqis, including women, children and old men.

The Security Council's decision to ask for more details before approving a request by Sri Lanka for permission to send a food shipment to its nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, a committee source said.

Sri Lanka's U.N. representative, Ambassador Daya Perera, told the committee in a letter Tuesday that the conditions facing his countrymen had deteriorated "and an urgent situation has arisen where immediate dispatch of foodstuffs for the Sri Lankan nationals in Iraq and Kuwait is necessary."

According to other sources, there are about 85,000 Sri Lankans in Kuwait alone.

The committee source said more information was sought about the proposed food ship, including the route it would take and what arrangements would be made to ensure the cargo was distributed in accordance with the Security Council's sanctions provisions.

These call for any food allowed through the U.N. embargo against Iraq to be distributed by the United Nations in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or other appropriate humanitarian agencies.

Iraq has said it would oppose any foreign monitoring of food distribution.

The United States had already provided Saudi Arabia with equipment to meet a "threat" from Iraq, including F-15 aircraft, M-60 tanks, Stinger missiles and ammunition, he said.

"Any further arms sales would require approval by Congress."

"The president has not yet made any final decision on what should be included in that package or what its size should be... but I expect the United States will go forward with the sale," Cheney said.

Asked if he thought a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis was possible, Cheney said U.S. forces were in the Gulf to "defend" countries in the region should deterrence fail.

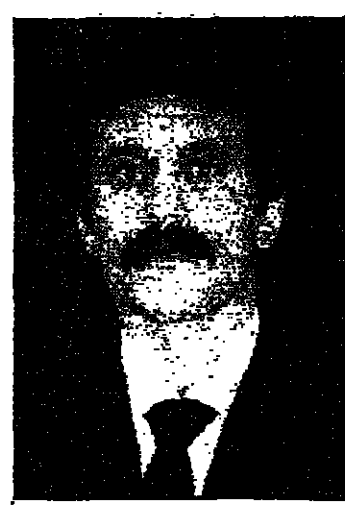
A nuclear proliferation expert criticised the decision and called Brazil a notorious proliferation risk with close ties to Iraq's missile programme.

U.S. State Department official Elizabeth Verville told a panel of the congressional joint economic committee that by the time officials had raised questions about the deal, the heat treatment for seven casings had been cleared.

She said an official review of the deal "found there was general agreement that it would be unwise in principle to proceed with the treatment of additional casings."

"Although neither technology nor hardware transfer is involved, we do want to avoid even the appearance of supporting development of technology that could be used for missiles," she said.

The officials said the export of seven Brazilian rocket motor casings hardened by a U.S. firm was allowed to go ahead to avoid straining U.S.-Brazilian relations. Export licences for 11 others were denied.



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U.N. appeal for Jordan delayed again

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council again delayed approval Friday of a letter asking the U.N. secretary general to implement sanctions committee recommendations for helping Jordan overcome the economic effects of applying sanctions against Iraq.

Jordan has said it would face annual losses totalling nearly \$3 billion.

More than a dozen other countries have also applied for relief, saying they too would face severe economic losses.

The committee recently drafted a report recommending an appeal to all states to provide Jordan with immediate technical, financial and material assistance, but without specifying any sum.

A letter from the Security Council asking Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to implement the recommendations has been delayed because Yemen first seeks adoption of a formal resolution providing a framework for dealing with all such hardship cases, a committee source said.

Sri Lankan request

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Ershad pledges firm opposition to Iraq

DHAKA (AP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has said his government's opposition to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will not waver despite the increasing hardships to his country.

"It's a matter of principle. How can I accept a powerful neighbour invading a country and annexing it? Yes, many Bangladeshis were working there, but has it made any difference to countries who have not condemned the aggression?" The 60-year-old former army general said.

"Maybe some of the Bangladeshis may have suffered a little more, but others also are suffering," Ershad said in an interview.

About 100,000 Bangladeshis were working in Kuwait and Iraq at the time of the Aug. 2 invasion. About 42,000 have returned home, another 40,000 are thought to remain and the rest are in transit camps in the region.

Ershad's speedy commitment to send troops to Saudi Arabia prompted street demonstrations in Dhaka and outcries from political opponents.

The main opposition parties, who refuse to participate in elections as long as Ershad is in power, objected to the president announcing his decision and only later putting it to a vote in parliament. Ershad, whose Jatiya Party

holds 87 per cent of the parliamentary seats, seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982.

"We took the right political stand," Ershad contented at his residence inside the Dhaka cantonment, a sprawling military complex of command centres and officers' bungalows. "Nobody in this country can accept aggression. It will pay a rich political dividend to us."

"Iraq has to evacuate Kuwait, and Kuwait has to become a sovereign country again," he said. "Things are very much against him. He never expected the whole world would go against him."

He denied that his stance was dictated by Bangladesh's heavy dependence on foreign aid, which has risen to an annual \$2 billion in recent years — an amount that last year equaled his country's development budget.

Ershad is to meet this weekend with Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates, before heading to New York on Tuesday for a United Nations session.

The main purpose of the trip to the UAE is to "express our solidarity," Ershad said. "So maybe we get a little additional financial help."

U.S. sees substantial Iraqi grain imports despite embargo

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has forecast that Iraq may import substantial amounts of grain worth millions of dollars despite the tight United Nations trade embargo against it.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has projected in its latest report that Baghdad is likely to import 1.75 million tonnes of wheat, barley and rice between now and next September.

But grain trade analysts said the forecast may be too high and unrealistic given stringent measures being taken by U.N. members to prevent commercial sales and allow only humanitarian aid to Iraq.

James Donald, chairman of the USDA's world agricultural outlook board which prepared the latest forecast, defended the department's projection Friday.

"The latest 1.75 million tonnes forecast compares with an August forecast of 2.85 million tonnes

and a pre-embargo forecast of 4.8 million tonnes in July and was made on the basis the embargo would be indefinite," Donald told Reuters.

He declined to say how the department thought Iraq would import the projected large amount of grain despite the embargo, but noted that some grain had already entered Baghdad just before the embargo.

"The forecast sounds very high given the embargo on Iraq, unless there is smuggling by land," said Steve McCoy, president of the North American Export Grain Association, which groups grain sellers.

Although there were bound to be some leaks in any international embargo, most major world grain exporters were strictly adhering to it, he added.

He had no detailed figures available on imports that entered Iraq before its August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

U.S. settles \$200m Iranian weapons claim

THE HAGUE (AP) — The United States has paid \$200 million to Iran for undelivered American weapons ordered before the Shah was overthrown. Western diplomats said.

The claims settlement — part of an umbrella Iranian claim against the United States' foreign military sales programme — was the largest before the Iran-United States claims tribunal here.

Tehran puts the entire claim at \$11 billion, an amount Washington disputes as inflated.

The Iranian government had repeatedly set the return of its assets held by Washington as a precondition for any intervention on behalf of the 13 Western hostages held in Beirut by Iranian militants.

The \$200 million represents the remainder of a trust fund set up by the U.S. Defence Department with Iranian funds to pay for Tehran's weapons orders. The department sells weapons to friendly nations under its foreign military sales programme.

The Algerians accord gained the release of the 52 Americans held at the embassy.

U.S. officials concede that most of Iran's 1,200 weapons claims have not yet been settled, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Upon issuance of the claims settlement by the tribunal, the money was immediately transferred to a special account at the Dutch Settlement Bank, a wing of the Dutch Central Bank, they said.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

McPeak may succeed Dugan

HONOLULU (AP) — President George Bush has nominated General Merrill McPeak to replace the air force chief of staff fired for revealing U.S. military strategy in the Middle East, officials said. McPeak, 54, has been commander of Pacific air forces since July 1988. He oversees more than 60,000 people and U.S. air operations from Japan to the United States. McPeak, a Vietnam veteran and former Thunderbolt pilot, is based at Hickam air force base in Honolulu. In a statement, McPeak said he was honoured and looks forward "to the challenge of leading our air force in these important times." If confirmed by the Senate, McPeak will succeed Gen. Michael Dugan, who was fired Monday for publicly discussing U.S. military operations in the Gulf, including contingency plans to bomb Iraq and target Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Greece holds Iraqi ships

ATHENS (AP) — A Greek court has ordered two Iraqi supertankers to remain in port until a request for their release is decided, the semi-official Athens News Agency (ANA) said. Last month, the state-run Pireus munitions company asked the court to impound the vessels against debts by Baghdad of \$65 million for purchases during its eight-year war with Iran. A repairs company halted work on the Al Farahidi and Jambur tankers when the United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Iraq. The ships docked near the busy port of Piraeus, where Friday's hearing was held. The court is scheduled to hear Pireus' request for seizure of the vessels Sept. 27, the ANA said. It quoted Iraq's ambassador in Athens as saying his government was willing to settle the debts to Pireus "in a friendly manner." Ambassador Abdul Fatah Al Khazreji said in a statement he had submitted written proposals to Pireus to resolve the dispute but had yet to receive a reply, the ANA said.

Argentina to explain Gulf stance

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina is sending a senior official to five Latin American blockade of Iraq. Foreign Ministry sources told Reuters Friday. Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo announced Tuesday that Argentina will send two warships and 450 personnel — so far the only Latin

American country to take such action. Under-Secretary for Latin American Affairs Raul Carignano will visit Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela in the next week and deliver explanatory letters from President Carlos Menem, the sources said. Menem's decision has provoked strong protest from many Argentine politicians who argue that parliament should approve the deployment of such forces.

Arabs in Australia oppose Iraq

ABU DHABI (R) — Arabs living in Australia have offered to send 7,000 men to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to help defend it against an attack by Iraq. The official UAE news agency WAM said Saturday that groups of Arabs in Australia had sent a joint letter promising the support to President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. It did not say if he had accepted.

U.S. cargo ships transit Suez

SUEZ (AP) — Three U.S. navy cargo ships Saturday steamed through the Suez Canal on their way to join a growing U.S. military buildup in the Gulf, a canal official said. The auxiliary sealift ships, Cape Catoche and Cape Horn, and the auxiliary crane ship Cornhusker state entered the canal in its regular south-bound convoy from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. The U.S. fleet in the Gulf now has more than 50 ships.

Turkey turns down Dutch offer

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey has turned down an offer by the Dutch government to send 15 F-16 fighter-jets to help the Turkish air force enforce a possible air embargo against Iraq, officials said. The officials would not give any details. The Istanbul daily Milliyet reported that the offer was rejected because Turkey intended to use its own aircraft to monitor its air space in case the United Nations decides on an air embargo. "The Turkish air force has the capacity to fulfill this mission. There is no need for foreign planes for the time being," Milliyet quoted Turkish officials as saying. Milliyet said the Dutch offer was viewed as an attempt to compensate for its failure to send troops to the Gulf. The daily said the offer might also have been a gesture to increase Dutch chances of winning contracts for several Turkish defence projects. The Turkish air force has about 40 locally produced F-16 planes.

Cheney: U.S. will sell more arms to S. Arabia

MADRID (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday Washington would sell more arms to Saudi Arabia because of the Gulf crisis but no decision had been reached on the size of the package.

After talks with his Spanish counterpart Narcis Serra, he told a news conference he hoped the United Nations economic embargo against Iraq and "the combined weight of virtually the entire world" would persuade the Iraqis to withdraw from Kuwait.

Cheney arrived earlier for a 24-hour visit to discuss the Gulf situation and implementation of a U.S. decision this week to close or reduce operations in 150 overseas bases, including 13 in Spain.

As well holding talks with Serra, he was received by King Juan Carlos and was due to meet Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez.

Saudi rocket deal embarrasses Brazil

BRASILIA (R) — The Foreign Ministry Friday expressed embarrassment at the reported sale

Evacuee pressure eases, but officials brace for further 'human wave'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The pressure of huge backlogs of Asians fleeing Iraq and Kuwait through Jordan has eased for the moment, with most Asian diplomatic missions reporting a smooth process of repatriating their nationals with international help, but evacuation officials are also braced for further "human waves" from across the border with Iraq.

As of Friday night, slightly more than 16,000 Indians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Sri Lankans remained in transit camps in Jordanian territory, including a grouping camp near Al Ruweisat border post, according to embassy officials. It is a far cry from the 70,000 Asians who were in the Kingdom in the first week of September.

A split up of the figure showed there were 5,000 Bangladeshis, 2,000 Sri Lankans, 450 Pakistanis, 200 Filipinos and 7,000 Indians in Jordan on Saturday. Relief officials said the number would remain almost the same with arrivals and departures over the week, barring any "panic exodus" spurred by signs of a military conflagration in the Gulf.

According to figures obtained from diplomatic missions, airlines and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), 63,401 Indians, 16,558 Pakistanis, 28,275 Bangladeshis, 8,548 Philippine nationals and 10,458 Sri Lankans have been repatriated through Jordan since Aug. 6, when Iraq opened its border for expatriates in Iraq and Kuwait to leave.

An Indian Embassy official said almost all Indians remaining in Jordan were at a new camp set up in Azraq. In addition, a few dozens were in Amman, having made their own way from Kuwait by buses and private cars. The Indian evacuation rate is around 3,000 every day from Amman aboard Air India flights, which were boosted since Wednesday by IOM airlifts financed from contributions from various governments. In addition, there is a steady flow of an average of 300 Indians flying in from Baghdad to take flights home from Amman, Air India officials said.

IOM airlifted 2,971 Indians by midday Saturday, and Air India was scheduled to fly home about 3,000 by early Sunday.

The Pakistani Embassy, which is accommodating its nationals on the Amman International Motor Show grounds, hopes "to have no backlog at all in two days' time after two IOM flights fly the remaining 450 of our people home," said Wahidul Hassan, first secretary at the embassy.

Hassan and Pakistan Inter-

national Airlines (PIA), the national carrier, airlifted 12,800 IOM flew home 1,738 and 1,667 left aboard a ship from Aqaba. Three hundred and fifty-one people left for home by road on private cars on an overland trip through Syria, Turkey and Iran.

Officials at the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh said of the total 28,275 people flown home, Biman, the national carrier, carried 4,155, with the rest being airlifted aboard IOM charters.

Philippine Ambassador Pacifico Castro said 8,548 of his compatriots were evacuated through Jordan; 4,819 aboard IOM charters and 3,728 aboard Philippine Airlines. In addition, 360 bought their own tickets and flew home, he said.

About 2,000 Philippine nationals remained in transit camps in Azraq and Amman, and "by the end of this week we would have cleared all of them," the ambassador told the Jordan Times.

An official at the Honorary Consulate of Sri Lanka said about 10,500 were evacuated through Jordan. According to IOM statistics, Air Lanka, the national carrier, cleared about 1,500 IOM charters airlifted about 7,190 and an IOM-organised ship ferried home about 1,768.

According to consulate official Tamara Pereira, about 5,000 Sri Lankan nationals re-

Third convoy for Iraqi children to leave Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has prepared its third convoy of trucks carrying food and medical supplies to the children of Iraq and said in a statement here that the convoy will be on its way by Monday Sept. 24.

The convoy, which will be carried under the slogan "From the Children of the Palestinian Intifada to the Children of Iraq," contains various commodities, mainly milk and medicine, intended for the Iraqi children. They were donated by Palestinian schools and collected from children, refugee camps and various organisations.

According to a GUVS statement, an invitation has been sent to the children of Iraq to participate in taking delivery of the convoy donated "as symbol of solidarity and faith in common destiny."

Palestinian institutions and individuals in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip also took part in preparing the earlier convoys sent to Iraq.

The second convoy of 20 trucks carrying milk and food, arrived in Baghdad on Sept. 9. The first and the second convoys were handed over to the Iraqi children's organisation in Baghdad.

Describing the nature of donations as a token gesture of solidarity with the Iraqi people, GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib said that the donations carried a clear message to the world, reminding every one that the rights of children should be safeguarded.

The first and second convoys, comprising 40 trucks, have already transported 520 tonnes of goods to Iraq over the past few weeks.

In another development, Dr. Jamal Badour, director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) announced that officials and workers employed by JCO had decided to give the pay of one day of their salaries to the Iraqi children.

Round table reviews businesswomen's situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A round table discussion on the "Impact of the Political and Economic Situation on Jordanian Women in Business" took place at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre Saturday.

The aims of the round table discussion part of which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor were:

- To explore the impact of the current political and economic situation on the business of women in Jordan. The businesswomen participating in the discussion shared with the group their individual business situation in light of the current situation.
- To discuss how each of these businesswomen is dealing with the current situation and how each of them proposes to help herself and the business cope with the new emerging situation.
- To collectively suggest solutions and strategies that might help Jordan and businesswomen in Jordan better cope with the current situation, such as:

Promoting more income-generating schemes and projects that depend on the local market to ensure the employment of more women and thus help raise family income.

Adopting strategies and schemes that would ensure higher local production to help reduce Jordan's imports and save foreign currency.

Exploring new markets abroad for exporting Jordanian products.

Emphasising quality and competitive prices to be able to compete in new markets.

Around twenty Jordanian businesswomen took part in the round table discussion. In addition, a three-member consultative group acted as an expert reference for the discussions. Dr. Sima Bahous, communications expert and director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's HEALTHCOM Project, was moderating the discussion.

The participating women represented the following sectors: industry and trade, tourism, agriculture, handicrafts, small business and entrepreneurs, architecture, building construction, and pharmaceuticals.

French Muslims take peace plan to Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing Muslims in France has arrived in Baghdad following a visit to Jordan, and their spokesman said they were carrying a peace plan to the Iraqi leadership.

While here, the delegation met with Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo to discuss the situation in the Gulf region and to review matters of concern to the Muslim community in France.

The spokesman said that the visit to Jordan aimed at presenting assistance to the Muslims of Jordan from their brethren in France. He said the assistance, which includes foodstuffs, clothes and medicines, would also benefit the evacuees arriving here from Iraq and Kuwait.

Shipments with assistance will start arriving here on Oct. 6 and will be distributed through the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS). The spokesman said that the French Muslims were also providing a bus as a gift to JNRCS.

Meeting to assess water situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An environmental pollution symposium tackling "Water Pollution in Jordan: Causes and Effects" is to be held at the University of Jordan between Sept. 29 and 30 with 16 lecturers addressing the participants.

The symposium, organised by the University of Jordan (Water Research and Study Centre), the Goethe Institut in Amman and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (foundation) in Amman will review several working papers by local experts discussing the present water pollution in Jordan and hazardous factors such as solid waste disposal sites, effluents of wastewater treatment plants, industries or cesspools.

Experience of other countries in dealing with such problems and applying the experience to Jordan's realities will be presented by foreign experts.

According to a statement Saturday, the symposium aims at assessing the present situation of water qualities in Jordan as affected by urbanisation, industrialisation and agricultural development, at clarifying the economic implications of water quality deterioration, at discussing relevant experiences of other countries and at recommending future policies to be able to compete in new markets.

The Water Research and Study Centre said in a statement that Jordan had a predominantly semi-arid climate, with a short rainy season in winter and an average rainfall of less than 200 mm in more than 90 per cent of the area. "This fact indicates that, with only a few exceptions, water is scarce and precious," the statement said.

"The local population has learned with time to live with meagre water resources, thus adapting their cultural habits and even their conflicts to this basic commodity," the statement added.

It pointed out that the increase in population and urbanisation, the accelerated agricultural development and the rapid establishment of industries had led, in the last few decades, to ever increasing water consumption and production of all types of wastes.

The statement said these factors had affected the available water resources in quality and quantity.

Jordanian teachers needed in Brunei

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sultanate of Brunei has requested the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Jordan to provide it with teachers of Arabic and religion to teach at its schools, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir.

The Sultan of Brunei also voiced his desire to donate \$250,000 as a contribution towards providing assistance to the Arab and foreign evacuees from Kuwait, the minister said in a statement upon returning to Amman following a visit to the Sultanate of Brunei.

During the visit Faqir signed an agreement paving the way for Jordan-Brunei cooperation in religious affairs, in the publication of Islamic books and coordinating positions at conferences and seminars held in the two countries or abroad.

In his statement the minister said that the two sides set up an executive committee to meet biannually to follow up the implementation of the agreement in religious affairs.

During his six-day visit to the Sultanate of Brunei Faqir met with the sultan who voiced his deep appreciation of the efforts carried out by His Majesty King Hussein to bolster ties between the two countries, especially in cultural fields.

All resolutions must be implemented — PNC member

AMMAN (Petra) — A prominent Palestinian figure Saturday urged the European countries to show as much enthusiasm towards the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine as that shown in the Gulf crisis.

Speaking during the television programme "Encounter" Shafiq A' Hout said that the Europeans were satisfied with giving the Arabs a tip service when they talk about the Palestine question, but they hastened to send troops, funds and planes and launch media campaigns to back their position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis.

Hout, who is member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said the past three years of popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories witnessed close coordination between the Palestinians under Israeli rule and those living in the diaspora.

This coordination, Hout said, has been instrumental to the success of the intifada.

Hout urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to give more attention now to the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and suggested the formation of a standing committee to deal with this issue.

Hout expressed hope that more and more voices in the Arab World would be raised, demanding democratic rule so that people can have free say in matters related to their own lives and their future.

Egyptian party urges Arab solution to the Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Egyptian Nasiri Arab Socialist Party has said that the main reason for the Gulf crisis is the willful disrespect by some Arab countries of the firm principles which should be adhered to by the whole Arab order, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i.

In a statement issued recently the party said that failure to link national security with pan-Arab security, has led to the absence of a comprehensive pan-Arab strategy.

The party described the hostile position of foreign forces against the Iraqi people and the Iraqi armed forces as a crime because it aims at destroying the Iraqi armed forces which have the role of Arab shield.

Liquidating of Iraqi armed forces, said the party, is an objective which America has committed itself to achieve because it does not want to see any other power in this region, except Israel.

The American and foreign military presence in the region is but an extension to the American hegemony and an actual occupation and confiscation of the Arab will, the party's statement said.

It condemned all Arab forces which have contributed to foiling an inter-Arab solution, and to facilitating the entry of foreign troops in the region.

The statement also condemned all media campaigns calling on the U.S. forces to attack the Iraqi army and people. The party called for an Arab solution to the Arab problem, capable of ensuring that Arab resources remain in their right place.

The statement appealed to all Arab leaders to mobilise their resources to counter the aggression on Iraq.

Food, cosmetics exhibition opens Oct. 25

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of locally manufactured clothes organised at the International Car Show Centre near the University of Jordan has come to a close Saturday but a new exhibition, displaying locally processed Jordanian food and cosmetics, will be organised at the centre on Oct. 25, according to a spokesman for the centre.

Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Ibrahim Badran opened the week-long exhibition at the centre praising the good quality of the national goods and urging Jordanian citizens to give priority in their purchases to Jordanian products over foreign products.

Badran said that the government was giving 70 per cent protection to the local products so as to boost sales in the country.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Roseenthat (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Man who Shot Liberty Valance" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC

The third convoy carrying food and medical supplies for Iraqi children will leave Amman Monday Sept. 24, 1990 at 5:00 p.m. from the Seventh Circle heading along the Queen Alia International Airport highway. The convoy will be under the slogan "From the Stone Children, the Heroes of the Intifada in Palestine to the Children of Iraq." Members of the public and their children are invited to join the gathering bidding farewell to the convoy and express their solidarity with the Iraqi children.

Signed by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan.

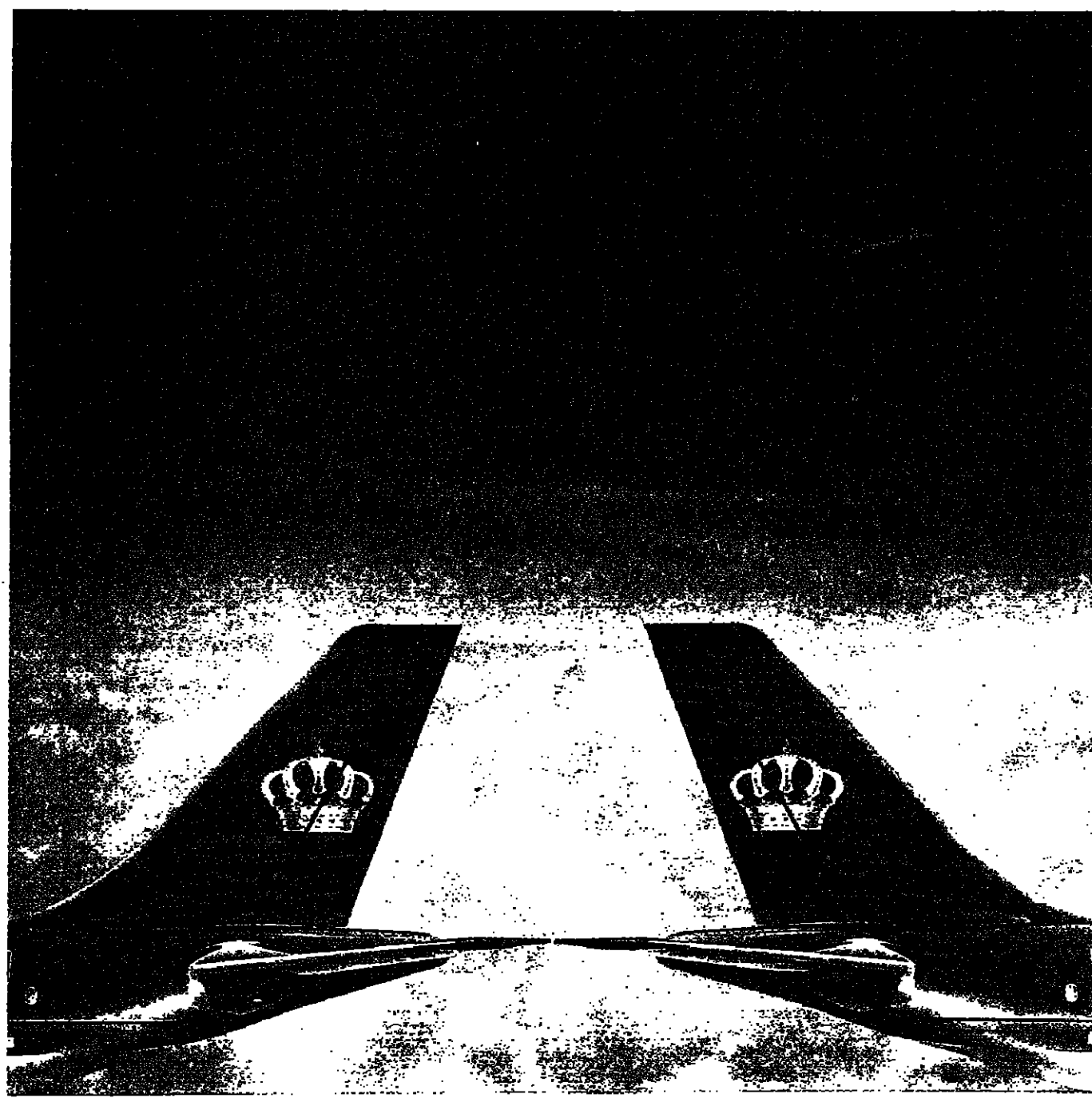
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Jordan Times

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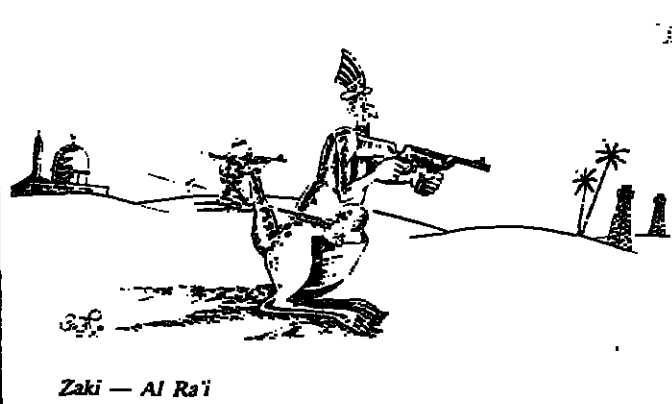
The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
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Jordan Times advertising department.

Equitable share

JORDAN HAS made its case for compensation to the United Nations on the basis of the direct losses that ensued from observing the U.N. Security Council-dictated boycott of Iraq. Minister of Finance Basel Jaradneh conceded Wednesday that the official figures cited by him do not cover the invisible losses or better still the indirect losses. Granted that these indirect losses are difficult to measure with any reasonable degree of precision, yet Jordan's claim for compensations submitted to the United Nations Security Council must surely include the indirect losses, especially since they are projected to exceed the direct losses by at least three-fold.

In order to identify the indirect and invisible losses, it would be necessary to establish a task force of Jordanian experts to compile the vital data and information that would shed light on the magnitude of these losses that affect the rank and file more than the direct ones. The participation of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry in such an endeavour is a sine qua non for any real measurement of the full economic and fiscal picture. With unemployment in the country projected to reach 30 per cent by the end of this year as a consequence of the gigantic dislocations that occurred in the Jordanian economy as a direct and indirect result of the boycott measures against Iraq, there is no way that any compensation for the direct losses would address the indirect effects of the boycott on the country.

Once the indirect losses are itemised, the government would become able to deal with them on a grassroots basis. The losses of a shipping company for example are distinct and different from those of the workers and professionals who are employed by such a company. This is the time, therefore, to make a more precise and comprehensive list of all those affected by the boycott with a view to spreading more equitably any compensation that may be forthcoming from the international community.



Zaki — Al Ra'i

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday called on the U.N. Security Council to take an unbiased stand with regard to various issues in the Middle East, and said the situation in the occupied Arab territories is more dangerous than that in the Gulf and that Israel's atrocities should be stopped and Security Council resolutions implemented. Referring to the escalation by Israel of its atrocities and arbitrary measures in the Gaza Strip over the past two days, the paper said, Israel seized the opportunity of the Gulf crisis to pursue its on-going criminal actions in the occupied Arab lands. As the world's attention is being directed towards the situation in the Gulf, Israel turns its attention to commit further crimes against the Palestinian population and has now banned foreign journalists from entering the Gaza Strip so that atrocities and acts of terrorism would not be exposed to the world, said the paper. The paper called on the U.N. Security Council to convene a special session to discuss the situation in the Israeli-held territories and to implement its former resolutions on the Palestine problem. There should be no selection of resolutions to be implemented and as long as the council insists that countries of the world impose sanctions on Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait, said the paper, the same measure should be applied on Israel for its continued occupation of Palestinian land.

There is no doubt that every Jordanian citizen is deeply concerned over the on-going developments in the Gulf region and their impact on Jordan, says columnist Salah Abdul Samad Saturday. But, he adds, that the situation in the Gulf should serve as an impetus for Jordanians to double their efforts and increase their production. The writer indirectly criticises public and private sector employees who, he says, read newspapers, listen to the radio and open discussions among themselves during office hours not giving due attention to their original work and so failing to serve the public. The writer says that the more tense the situation becomes in the Gulf, the greater should be the employees' attention to deal with the public's issues and that they ought to be more enthusiastic about serving their nation. Work especially in a public office is a sacred duty, and any diversion from such duty is considered as a means to shirk responsibility towards one's country and society, the writer adds. He says, patriotic feeling alone can not by themselves offer service to the nation.

As the world is busy itself with the situation in the Gulf region, Israel is taking time to carry out its atrocities against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, said Al Dastour daily Saturday. The horrible dimension of the Israeli campaign in the Gaza Strip prompts us to believe that the Israelis are now seizing the opportunity to carry out their last attempt to subdue the Palestinian uprising once and for all, the paper said. The paper expressed belief that Israel's current escalation of tension was bound to create explosive situation of unpredictable consequences in the Middle East, endangering world peace. The situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands, said the paper, should prompt the U.N. Security Council to take measures to ensure that its resolutions on the Palestine question be implemented so that Israeli crimes can stop.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

ONE may ask why the majority of the Jordanians sided with Iraq in spite of the economic losses that go with such a position. Jordanians are aware of what is at stake in the Gulf states, especially financial grants to the government, jobs for our surplus manpower, and markets for our products, goods and services. It is not true, or at least, it is an oversimplification to assume that Jordanians think in terms of patriotic feelings only, and do not know or do not care about economic consequences. It is true that the political feelings invoked by the American intervention are mounting very high, but it is equally true that the instincts of the people are rational and have solid basis. Jordan may lose financially and economically in the short run, especially if Iraq did not win its bid to assert Arab rights in the face of Israeli Zionism and Western imperialism, but in the longer run, it is worth taking the risk, in the hope that the whole Arab order will be restructured in a just and fair manner. No one knows for sure what the outcome of the Gulf crisis would be; all the options and possibilities are still wide open. One thing, however, is sure: the Middle East and the Arab order will not be the same again. Some Arab regimes lost their legitimacy, and will be doomed. Their demise is a matter of time. The shake up in the Arab World after the Gulf crisis, will be similar to that which followed the Palestinian disaster in 1948. The pre-crisis system did not serve Jordan's best interests anyhow. Jordan was taking much more than its share in demographic and security responsibilities as a result of the Palestinian problem, while receiving much less than its share in Arab resources, especially oil wealth. A new order entailing fair distribution of Arab responsibilities and wealth is badly needed and must come about. No one in his right mind thinks that the Arab World will be the same after the crisis no matter what its outcome may be.

Our reasoning is rational

The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which comprises Iraq, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan, and was formed in early 1989 has not passed the test. It has collapsed on impact of the first Arab crisis due to the odd position taken by Egypt. The death sentence has not been formally pronounced yet, but the ACC is finished. It takes a miracle to bring it back to life. After a long time of dismissing Arab unity as rhetoric and unrealistic, pan-Arabism has made a strong comeback, removing in one stroke the accumulation of 25 years of setbacks. One of the possible scenarios of the outcome of the Gulf crisis is an Arab confederation, where every member state will find its real security through Arab interdependence, rather than seeking false security by calling on foreign powers to take over, and protect unsecured and unviable, out-of-date regimes by destroying the other Arab regime. Arabs have their reasons to welcome the opportunity of radical alteration in the Arab order in the right direction. We are in a transition period. The old world order collapsed when the socialist camp disintegrated in a sad manner. For the first time Arabs have a say on what shape the new world order should take. America would like to see itself as the sole superpower, the only police-man, and the ultimate master of the whole world. Iraq in its capacity as an Arab Third World country has a different vision. We have every reason to side against the American hegemony and designs and so do all the Arabs who are free to express their will.

King Hussein addresses American Congress, people
(Continued from page 1)
people the world over, and to provide leadership and set an example in its treatment of similar issues with one standard in all parts of our universe. This is what old friends of the United States, such as I, expect as we seek to maintain and strengthen our relationship in partnership, and to build a better tomorrow, based always on the solid foundations of trust and mutual respect with the government and people of the United States, as well as with governments and people the world over. In this spirit, I address this message to you at this time of serious and ominous crisis in this region, where my government and I have been and still are exerting every effort to address it and contribute to resolving it peacefully, honourably and fairly. We must avert an explosion in this highly inflammable area, straddling the world's richest oil reserves, that would cause untold death, destruction and misery, with disastrous repercussions far beyond this vital region, and this period of human life. We believe that the position of Jordan could not be clearer to any one who seeks the truth. It is based on the principles of international law which Jordan has respected and always called on all nations to respect. Despite its close relations with Iraq, Jordan had no prior knowledge nor any form of involvement in the Iraqi plan to act militarily against Kuwait. Neither I nor my government and people were ever involved in such ventures anywhere. Nor was I ever privy to the Iraqi leadership's thought process leading to its decision to invade Kuwait, nor its timing of the operation nor its scope. Jordan stands by the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. This is the basis of our stand on all related issues, including the Falklands crisis, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, where we were involved in the formulation of Security Council Resolution 242 twenty-three years ago, and which must be the basis and foundation of the decently sought, honourable just and lasting Palestinian and Arab-Israeli peace. In upholding this principle, Jordan could not contradict itself by accepting, endorsing or recognising any demographic or political changes that result from war in this region or anywhere else in the world. Hence, we have continued to recognise the State and Government of Kuwait and will continue to do so unless and until the people of Kuwait, under conditions of total freedom, choose to exercise their legitimate right of self-determination and elect otherwise. While Jordan recognises the sovereign right of Saudi Arabia to seek assistance from friendly states, and the sovereign right of the United States of America to respond to its request, we strongly feel that the presence of United States and allied forces on the land of the state which is the custodian of the two holiest shrines of Islam, must be terminated within the shortest possible period of time lest it result in incalculable grave consequences involving Arabs and Muslims the world over for generations to come. (This is the first time that Islamic history has seen the arrival of non Arab and non Muslim forces on the soil of the custodian and, moreover, at a time when the United States' strategic ally, Israel, occupies the third most holy Islamic shrine in illegally annexed Arab Jerusalem, as well as Christendom's holiest sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, an occurrence that now inflames the deepest sensitivities of all Arabs and Muslims alike). The crisis must be resolved peacefully and urgently to avert disaster. Jordan has been and is still seeking to contribute to that end to the best of its abilities sparing no effort in pursuing this worthy cause. Jordan respects all Security Council resolutions and is committed to complying with them in good faith. The Jordanian government has, well within the required time frame, implemented the Security Council embargo on Iraq despite devastating results to our national economy which threaten, with immediate clear evidence, the present and future of Jordan in every sphere of life. Jordan's problems are compounded by a humanitarian problem of great magnitude afflicting Jordanians, and Jordanian expatriates in Kuwait, the Gulf and elsewhere who have lost or are losing everything and are returning home in growing numbers. Jordan is further attempting to shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities towards the hundreds of thousands of other nationals who are continuously passing through our border with Iraq and are in need of every means of help and support before travelling on to their respective countries. All this while Jordan is considered to be in a war zone and is practically facing a state of siege. Since the onset Jordan believed in the need for a major Arab political effort to help address and resolve the crisis according to the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. Jordan is continuing to spare no effort to achieve this end. At the same time, Jordan has always realised that the crisis was not born in a vacuum as many believe. It had its origins in a complexity of causes which must be recognised in order to avert further and future crises. Essentially, these causes have three interrelated dimensions: 1. Bilateral relations: The border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is not unique in the Arab World. Jordan has for long advocated the resolution of this and other border problems still awaiting to be finally defined. However, contemporary Kuwait and part of Iraq belonged to the same country under the Ottoman Empire and the Muslim states that preceded it. The political border between these countries was drawn not in answer to indigenous political needs, but to facilitate their administration by the British mandatory authorities of that time and to secure British interests. Consequently, even before independence, Iraq sought to reincorporate Kuwait into its territory on the grounds that it had been a district of Basra. The present Iraqi government was the first that did not actively pursue this claim. It sought an agreement with Kuwait that would secure it an independent access to the sea which it considers of vital national interest, and define the Iraq/Kuwaiti border once and for all by mutual agreement. We believe that this crisis cannot be finally resolved unless a mutually acceptable solution is urgently reached. Another aspect of the problem was Iraq's perception that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were waging an economic war against it by exceeding their oil production levels agreed upon within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC. This resulted in Iraq sustaining substantial material losses resulting in its inability to meet the basic needs of its people, let alone service and pay its national debt. This was clearly spelled out by Iraq at the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad on 27-30 May, 1990. Followed later by an Iraqi memorandum to the League of Arab States implying a clear warning of dangerous consequences unless the situation was urgently and satisfactorily resolved. We in Jordan regarded these developments with grave concern. 2. The second dimension of the problem is regional. We take note of the feeling that linking this crisis to other problems may exacerbate rather than facilitate the solution of any one of them. Yet it must be recognised that the extreme frustration which resulted from the lack of progress in solving the Arab-Israeli problem has had a bearing on this crisis. The absence of enthusiasm for implementing Security Council Resolution 242, which, like Resolution 660, is based on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, has embittered Arab public opinion and caused it to question the motives behind the United States' zeal to implement Resolution 660. The United States had always advised Arabs to accept a negotiated settlement and to be willing to accept the principle of reciprocal compromise to achieve a final Arab-Israeli settlement. Arabs accepted the advice on both counts. Yet now they perceive the United States as unwilling to even consider a negotiated settlement between Iraq and Kuwait, and unwilling to accept a compromise short of an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Under the circumstances, priority must be given to defusing the explosive situation in the Gulf; but credible assurances must be given to ensure that other problems of a similar nature would definitely and urgently be addressed thereafter. Ideally within the context of a long sought after international peace conference. Another serious danger in this region is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. A United Nations forum must soon be set up to oversee the removal of all forms of weapons of mass destruction from all parts of the region, including nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons. The experience of the two superpowers in this field would be invaluable, especially as far as verification procedures are concerned. The third aspect of the regional dimension concerns the socio-political order in the region. In the Arab World national identity has not obliterated Arab feelings of belonging to the greater Arab Nation. Considerable tension has arisen from the vast disparity in the standards of living between the oil-rich, sparsely populated Arab countries on the one hand, and the manpower-rich, debt-ridden countries on the other. To redress this problem, it has been suggested that an Arab investment fund and an adequate comprehensive plan be created to support meaningful development in the region in a manner beneficial to all and to the cause of harmony, progress, cohesion, complementarity and stability within the entire Arab region. 3. The final dimension of the problem is the nature of relations between this region and the rest of the world. When the Cold War came to an end and the world moved from confrontation to cooperation, and a new world order began to emerge, we sought to cooperate to be a part of this order. We cautioned against the marginalisation of our region as the world concentrated on developments in Europe. The Middle East must receive its share of the world's attention and assistance to resolve its problems, or the region will become a hotbed of extremism born of despair. A most important aspect which affects our relations is public perceptions, and would offer Jordan as an example since public opinion can be easily monitored in this country, where democracy ensures every citizen's freedom of expression. In the period leading to the Gulf crisis, the public was constantly wounded by the lack of understanding and demonization of Arabs, their culture, and their causes which manifested itself in the world. It has always been believed that friendship has to be reciprocal; it cannot be one sided, nor can it flourish if one side constantly holds the other in public scorn and denies the Arabs their right to equally achieve their fullest potential in all areas of knowledge and development as with any other people in the world. When the crisis broke out the public was unanimous in asking for Iraq's withdrawal. However, this feeling was eclipsed once foreign forces landed in Saudi Arabia. Political forces of secular nationalism and religious conservatism were united for the first time in their opposition to this presence in the former group, it invoked memories of colonial domination, while the latter saw it as a desecration of the holy places. These facts highlight the dangerous consequences of an armed expedition, which would persist and spread far beyond the immediate scope of the battles in the field. They also highlight the necessity for a substantial Arab input in the diplomatic solution because, irrespective of the justice of the solution, there must not be room to misrepresent it as a resolution imposed from outside the area. Many would seek to create this misconception in order to detract from the legitimacy of the solution. An objective, neutral, Arab involvement must be an integral part of a United Nations solution to the problem. As regards all countries and peoples in the region, every encouragement must be given to their governments to ensure their orderly and rapid transformation into democracies recognised as such by any acceptable yardstick in this world, where citizens enjoy equal rights and where human rights are recognised, enjoyed and respected. Finally, we believe that this crisis has highlighted the need for a new approach to relations with this region. It underscores the need for inter-regional and intra-regional dialogue through which all countries of the region can pool their resources and combine their efforts in facing the challenges of progress and building a brighter, stable future. These are the dimensions of the crisis in this region, and the obvious essentials for their solution from our perspective. In the short run, it might indeed have been more beneficial to Jordan and to myself if we had been of the kind that sought immediate benefits rather than taking the high road of facing up to the challenge that requires us to struggle for real solutions to a real crisis. We chose as always not to forsake our national and regional duties, ethics, honour and principles, which I am sure all will ultimately realise that we have always upheld. Jordan is paying a terrible price for its commitment to honour, principles, justice and peace. Jordan stands tall and its record speaks for itself. We do not waver in our belief that truth will finally reach one and all and break through darkness as does a new dawn. We hope to cooperate with our friends in securing a peaceful resolution of all issues in this region, so that all its countries and peoples can live free from the threat of war, and combine their efforts in building a better future which is their right.

King Hussein addresses American Congress, people

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its oil needs and "if the U.S. (which is leading the campaign against Iraq) can offer us the same terms and conditions (as Iraq offers to Jordan), we will be glad to take it." Jordan was scheduled to receive one million barrels of oil from Saudi Arabia through Tapline during September to make up for the shortfall resulting from Jordan imposing mandatory security council sanctions against Iraq. However, Jordan continued to receive Iraqi oil partly because the shipments, trucked across the border, represented Iraqi repayments of debts to the Kingdom and partly because it was assured of a steady price of \$16.4 per barrel under a special pricing deal with Iraq regardless of international prices, which are currently around \$34 per barrel. Taher told reporters later that Jordan was also studying the issue of oil rationing. Taher said Jordan had received 660,000 barrels of oil from Saudi Arabia through Tapline since early September until mid-Sept. 19. In a statement issued late Friday, the minister said the cut-off in supply through Tapline with a six-hour notice came after the Saudi company demanded an immediate payment of \$46 million in settlement of oil bills for supplies made during 1985 and in early 1990. In reply to the demand, Jordan said it was making an immediate payment of \$6 million and pointed out that King Fahd had agreed to waive the payment of the 1985 dues. But, the minister said, Tapline went ahead and cut the supply at midnight Wednesday, in less than six hours after the demand was submitted to Jordan. "It is open breach of contract," said Taher. "Our agreement clearly provides for interest on delayed payments and the company did not choose to honour this provision of the contract." Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Saturday that Saudi Aramco has halted the export of crude oil to Jordan but he denied that King Fahd had exempted Jordan from paying the \$40 million dues for 1985. "Export of crude oil is the responsibility of the kingdom's oil companies alone, and halting the export of crude oil to Jordan is a measure that Saudi Aramco took because Jordan has not settled its overdue payments," said Nazer in the statement distributed by the Saudi Press Agency. Jordan did not respond to payments that had been postponed for two years, then those payments were spread out in instalments over three years, of which the first was due last July and was equal to more than \$40 million. "Jordan did not pay that till now," according to Nazer. Additionally, in July Jordan took \$6 million worth of oil and did not pay for it on time, he said. "Oil companies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are commercial companies whose dealings are conducted on commercial bases and the Saudi government does not interfere in their operations or the methods of sales or collection of their dues, and these companies deal with all buyers in one style," said Nazer. Against the backdrop of financial problems, Taher also reported the discovery of a new gas well at Al Rishbi. The well, which he identified as number 20, has an output capacity of 18 million cubic metres per day, equivalent to 3,000 barrels of oil, the minister said. The output, which is the same as that of well number 18, will be used to generate electricity, he added. Although Taher and other Jordanian officials have sought to steer clear of politics in the oil deal with Saudi Arabia, the cut-off by Tapline is seen as an expression of Riyadh's anger at Jordan for the obvious pro-Iraqi stand among its people. Some Gulf officials have also gone to the extent of questioning Jordan's sincerity in its efforts to avert a war in the Gulf and seek an Arab political solution to the crisis. Washington meanwhile, distanced itself from the Saudi-Jordanian equation, saying it was a bilateral issue. "Our position on this... unfortunately is going to be (that) these discussions are between two other sovereign nations, and I'm not going to interject myself in it with the United States' opinion," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said late Friday. According to Tutwiler, the U.S. had no role in the Saudi decision. The spokeswoman also said that Washington feels that despite some "leakage" of Iraqi trade through Jordan, as well as other countries, Jordan has complied with the embargo against Iraq. "We have publicly stated that countries such as Jordan which suffer economically from severing economic relations with Iraq should be helped, provided they observe the sanctions and distance themselves from Iraq's aggression against Kuwait," she said. The spokeswoman could not say whether the U.S. could ask another oil-producing country to supply Jordan.

Jordan seeks oil

(Continued from page 1)
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Yemen

(Continued from page 1)
trade status, to Yemenis living in Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has cancelled special privileges, such as free entry and trade status, to Yemenis living in Saudi Arabia. Observers said future moves by the Saudi government also might lead to expel some Yemenis who live and work in Saudi Arabia and whose remittances is a major source of revenue for their country. "We are talking about four to five people per family. That is a lot for the Yemeni government to deal with," an observer said. The observers said the Saudis also could apply strong leverage on Yemen through the tribes who live in the areas near the Saudi border. They noted that the tribes in Yemen are concentrated in the areas where Yemen's oil is located. Yemeni diplomats in Riyadh said an 50-member staff at the embassy there was being reduced after Saudi Arabia abolished privileges for Yemenis in the kingdom. The diplomats, who spoke on condition they not be named, were reached by telephone from Bahrain by the Associated Press. They said that the Saudi authorities want to sponsor only four diplomats at the embassy while the Yemeni side is pressing for about half the number that is present. "The situation will be clarified within a week," said one of the sources. Out of the 50-member personnel, 15 were designated as diplomats and the rest described as "attaches."

Assad, Rafsanjani meet

(Continued from page 1)
"Obviously, Iran and Syria can play a major role in leading regional issues," said Rafsanjani, who presided over a military parade to mark the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war shortly before welcoming Assad. "The coincidence is a fresh emphasis on the role that Syria played as Iran's number one ally during the war period," IRNA said in a commentary. But alliance has been strained by the crisis over the seizure of Kuwait by Iraq. Tehran and Damascus have both denounced the invasion. But the changing alliances touched off by the crisis have found Assad, with his strong anti-Western record, siding with some Arab governments and sending thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia against Iraq. Tehran has opposed the foreign military buildup and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said anyone killed in the fight against U.S. forces in the Gulf would be a martyr. At the same time, Iran has moved quickly to sever ties with Iraq after Iraq and Iran made peace last month. The rapprochement has raised concern in the West that Iran might throw a trade lifeline to Baghdad, despite its repeated declarations of support for U.N. trade sanctions. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Friday the United States hoped Assad, who held talks with Secretary of State James Baker in Damascus last week, could persuade Iraq to uphold the embargo. Syria's official daily Tasbeeh, commenting on the Assad visit, reiterated the demand for an Iraqi withdrawal. It said Tehran-Damascus cooperation was "vital to defuse the big explosion and pave the way for an Arab solution that would lead to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restore the legitimate Kuwaiti government." The IRNA commentary tried to play down the Syrian policy shift over the Gulf crisis. It said it was understandable for Damascus to use the opportunity to improve its troubled ties with the West. Syria, it said, "is basically opposed to the U.S. intentions in the region and would expose its opposition at an opportune moment." It said Damascus was also under pressure from Washington to mediate with Iran help contain growing opposition to U.S. policy in the region and "steer Tehran away from serious cooperation with Iraq." "Therefore, diplomatic observers believe that in his trip to Iran Hafez Al Assad would in all probability convey proposals and messages from the United States to Iran," IRNA said. Iranians meanwhile marked what they see as the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the Gulf war with Iraq Saturday. Rafsanjani opened week-long celebrations at Tehran's Azadi Square. Rafsanjani urged Iran's armed forces to maintain war readiness amid the new Gulf crisis. "With regard to the unique situation in the region, we are duty-bound to preserve our complete readiness," the radio quoted him as saying. "Our expectation from the armed forces is to preserve their complete readiness and attentiveness until the achievement of complete security in the region, so that we can defend our Islamic and national interests," Rafsanjani declared.

Iraq says Bush may attack

(Continued from page 1)
It added that "the U.S. invasion of the Gulf region" has "exposed Mubarak's American face that was hidden behind an Arab mask." The daily said Mubarak has proved himself to be "the representative of Zionist and U.S. policy in the Arab homeland and the faithful defender of the Zionist presence." Bush Friday insisted Washington still sought a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Bush told Republican and Democratic congressional leaders in Washington there was new evidence of links between Iraq and international guerrilla groups. "The president highlighted his concern about the new links of the Iraqi government to various terrorist groups and warned that Iraqi support of terrorist actions would have serious consequences," White House spokesman Roman Popaduk said. But Bush, clarifying his remarks later, told reporters: "I want to see a peaceful resolution... I don't intend to be sending a signal that I'm shifting more towards the military."

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PANGOLF

Sommet populaire arabe à Amman

Briser le blocus autour de l'Irak

Durant trois jours, du 15 au 17 septembre derniers, Amman a été le lieu de rencontre de 120 représentants des différents partis politiques arabes, réunis pour discuter des moyens de soutenir l'Irak «face à l'offensive impérialiste-sioniste». Une première dans la capitale jordanienne.

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Touche parisiennes

Ave Egeria,

Ma pensée traîne encore en s'arrêtant sur certains détails de mon voyage qui me semble avoir été plus un pèlerinage qu'une période de vacances. Des vacances on attend de l'insouciance, alors que là, mes journées ont été importantes, remplies de sensations qui m'ont touchée profondément. C'est peut-être l'âge qui me fait voir les choses différemment, qui me fait regarder sous la peau de l'eau, qui me rend plus sensible à la «sacralité» de certaines rencontres. Et quand je dis rencontres, je ne parle pas seulement de celle avec les hommes, mais aussi avec les choses, les couleurs, les saveurs, les vibrations subtiles, puissantes et particulières à chaque terre où l'on passe. Je suis en France, terre sacrée de mon pays, nourrie par le même sein, mais si différente! Chez nous les terrasses s'ouvrent vers le ciel et les arrêtes des toits rouges unissent la terre à l'infini. Les murs s'insèrent dans l'espace en essayant de ne pas s'en laisser écraser, de garder une individualité plus ou moins particulière, une indisciplinée qui parle d'hommes, de leurs vies à travers les siècles, de leurs choix. Ici l'homme ne tient pas compte de l'espace naturel, il ne se sent pas du tout écrasé par l'infini: il dessine l'espace, le crée et vous fait penser qu'au delà il y a le néant, le zéro mathématique. Haussmann, génie de la géométrie descriptive, nous fait comprendre comment se traduisent dans la réalité les points de fuite d'un immense projet d'architecture, et l'incroyable pouvoir de suggestion qu'ils possèdent. Au XIXe siècle, que sa vie couvre tout entier, il tire un trait sur Paris et il recommence.

Chez nous, les murs ont l'âme changeante: ils pleurent avec la pluie, s'allument avec le soleil: ils vous parlent aussi du goût, de la culture, des hommes qui vivent derrière. Ici les murs ont les noms, quand même, sont évocateurs de tant d'histoire, sont mis au garde-à-vous et muselés: habillés d'uniformes gris, chapeaux arrondis gris foncé, très disciplinés, ils doivent surtout savoir être d'élegants gardes d'honneur silencieux, pour souligner et respecter cet espace incroyablement vaste dont, quand même, ils sont la cause et la raison d'être. Ils ne se laissent même pas enflammer par le soleil. Haussmann voit grand et veut que son Paris soit grand; il jongle avec la perspective et arrive à créer l'illusion, qui se traduit en sensation visuelle, de l'infini, tout en travaillant sur un plan de ville tout de même assez circonscrit.

Au risque de tomber dans le lieu commun le plus chanté, écrit, récrit et pensé, je redirai, oui, encore une fois, que la Seine -seule- ose scintiller et murmurer tout en glissant dans sa féminité insidieuse et sensuelle, pour jouer avec ces espaces si vastes, qu'elle traverse et accompagne en même temps.

J'ai vu tant de choses à Paris qu'il me faudrait tout un volume pour te les raconter. Je ne te parlerai que de celles vers lesquelles ma pensée va constamment. Et, là encore, c'est d'espace que je veux te parler. Engouffrée dans les méandres d'un espace caché dans les profondeurs de la terre, le noir, éclairé par à-coups d'aveuglantes scènes de vie, coule rapide autour de moi, avec son odeur caractéristique et me lâche sous le Monument. C'est la science fiction à l'état pur. Je me sens si petite sous cette masse incroyablement belle et lointaine de marbre et de vitres! Le Colisée est fait pour l'homme, l'Arche pour les Titans. Haussmann aurait compris Spreckelsen et l'aurait sûrement approuvé. Là aussi, l'architecte a jonglé avec la perspective. Le fait que le monument ne soit pas tout à fait perpendiculaire à l'axe de l'avenue Charles de Gaulle permet d'en découvrir la profondeur. J'ai envie de grimper les marches en m'aidant des mains et des pieds, sans regarder en haut. Dans certains temples, on ne pouvait pas regarder en face l'autorité qui y vivait et les Pythagoriciens ne pouvaient voir le visage du maître. Je sais que quand j'aurai gravi les marches, j'entendrai la VOIX et peut-être aurai-je accès à la présence voilée. Le vent est très fort, il fait de son mieux pour m'empêcher de monter et toujours ce vertige de marbre et de vitres plane sur moi. J'en ai le souffle coupé. Au bout des marches, les vestiges d'une toile qu'une araignée jalouse avait commencé à tisser pour essayer d'en envelopper l'Arche. Le vent l'a vite déséchée, et il n'en reste que quelques filaments déshydratés et rongés. Des gardes, au premier palier, ne me trouvent pas digne d'entreprendre ma montée verticale vers le Sommet. Mon initiation n'est pas complète. J'en suis déçue et soulagée en même temps. Je m'efforce lentement en marchant à reculons. Je n'arrive pas à détacher mes yeux de l'Arche et... je m'aperçois qu'elle devient de plus en plus grande, imposante, tout en gagnant du terrain sur moi. Les grandes batisses qui l'entourent comme des esclaves complaisants disparaissent selon les lois de la distance. L'Arche, elle, se fait fi des lois. Elle n'obéit qu'à ses siennes. J'ai peur, je veux me retourner et courir à l'ombre connue, familière, réconfortante du vieux Arc de Triomphe, mais mes mouvements sont lents et empâtés, comme si mes nerfs anesthésiés n'arrivaient pas à obéir aux ordres confus du cerveau. C'est un ami qui vient à mon secours, en me fermant les yeux tout en me faisant pivoter.

Ce que je te raconterai maintenant n'a rien à voir avec tout cela, mais j'en ai le cœur plein et il faut que je te le confie. J'ai été irrésistiblement attirée par une clocharde. La vie l'a malmenée, étourdie. Elle marmonne sa rancune inefficace d'une voix rauque en parlant au trottoir et au caniveau. Elle ne possède, temporairement, que le carton sur lequel elle couche, et, dans un petit paquet, quelques cigarettes, une culotte de rechange et un infime morceau de savon. C'est ce souci qu'elle a de se laver, même mal, par des gestes désappris et aussi inefficaces que sa rancune, qui lui conserve, à mes yeux, une certaine dignité. Je la sens sœur. Je voudrais la bercer dans mes bras, parce que moi j'ai eu beaucoup et si je suis au chaud, à l'abri, parfumée, conduisant une voiture, il se peut que j'aie tout cela grâce à des compromis qu'elle aurait refusés. Je me questionne, je me trouve nez-à-nez avec ma vérité et j'en tremble. Vale, Egeria!

La «conférence des forces populaires arabes» s'est tenue à l'initiative de la coalition des partis de gauche jordaniens. Y ont participé des partis politiques d'Algérie, de Tunisie, du Maroc, du Soudan, d'Irak, de Libye, de Palestine, de Syrie, du Yémen, de Mauritanie et du Liban. Deux partis égyptiens ont envoyé des télégrammes précisant que les autorités de leur pays avaient interdit à leurs délégations de quitter l'aéroport du Caire. Deux figures ont fait sensation par leur participation à cette conférence: Georges Habash et Nayef Hawatmeh, secrétaires généraux respectifs du Front Populaire et du Front Démocratique pour la libération de la Palestine (FPLP et FDLP). C'était la première fois depuis vingt ans qu'ils mettaient les pieds en Jordanie. A la fin de la conférence, les délégations -y compris les deux dirigeants palestiniens- ont été reçues par le roi Hussein.

Au terme de ces trois jours de délibération, la conférence a adopté un communiqué final qui résume les positions et les conclusions politiques et pratiques de cette réunion censée représenter l'opinion publique arabe dans une large mesure.

Les délégués considèrent que l'occupation étrangère d'une partie de la terre arabe est une atteinte grave à la souveraineté et à la dignité nationale arabe. Et le communiqué ajoute: «les peuples arabes sont bien décidés à résister aux menaces, par la force s'il le faut, et à briser l'embargo économique imposé à l'Irak par les pays qui veulent se partager les richesses de notre patrie».

La conférence appelle tous les Musulmans à condamner l'inva-

sion des lieux saints par les Américains et à venir au secours de l'Irak assiégé.

Par ailleurs, les forces populaires arabes soutiennent la proposition du président irakien, avancée le 12 août dernier, de lier le problème du Golfe à celui de la Palestine et d'autres occupations dans la région.

Les congressistes se sont mis d'accord sur la formation d'un «comité national permanent des forces populaires arabes», dont le siège sera à Amman et dont la tâche consistera à coordonner les activités des différents comités populaires arabes nationaux (créés dans certains pays depuis le début de la crise) contre l'agression impérialiste-sioniste à l'égard de la nation arabe. Le comité devrait également défendre la démocratie et les droits de l'homme dans le monde arabe et soutenir l'OLP et l'intifada.

Sur le plan pratique, la conférence a décidé d'organiser des collectes de soutien à l'Irak, de frapper les intérêts impérialistes dans les pays arabes, de boycotter les produits américains, de publier une brochure en langues étrangères destinée à expliquer la cause arabe à l'Occident, d'organiser, dans le même but, un colloque arabo-européen, de s'adresser aux soldats arabes dans la péninsule arabique pour les inciter à désobéir aux ordres de leurs gouvernements, d'organiser enfin des manifestations contre l'agression américaine.

Dernier point significatif: afin de garantir leur indépendance, les partis politiques arabes ont décidé de ne compter financièrement que sur eux-mêmes et sur le soutien populaire.

Sulehman Sweiss

Jumelles parfaites

Identités à l'identique

Même quand des kilomètres séparent Tahani d'Hanadi, ce qui arrive rarement, chacune sait en permanence ce que sa sœur ressent, comme par télépathie. Dotées du même physique, des mêmes goûts et de la même personnalité, elles ont le sentiment de vivre une seule vie dans deux corps à peine distincts. Leur propre père ne parvient pas à les différencier l'une de l'autre. Ces deux jumelles partagent tout, de la chambre à coucher jusqu'aux projets d'avenir, et les anecdotes ne manquent pas.

«Un jour, à l'école, raconte Tahani, j'ai demandé deux fois de suite à sortir de la classe pour aller boire. Dix minutes plus tard, c'est ma sœur qui demande la même chose, mais la maîtresse lui refuse l'autorisation, pensant que nous sommes déjà sorties toutes les deux. Ma sœur a très soif et je le ressens à tel point que lorsque la cloche sonne nous allons toutes les deux nous désaltérer en même temps».

Cette histoire n'étonne plus Tahani ni Hanadi: elles ont l'habitude que les adultes ou les camarades de leur âge s'arrivent pas à les distinguer l'une de l'autre. Même leur père donne souvent deux fois la même explication à la même de ses deux filles, croyant s'adresser à la seconde. Les deux jumelles ne s'étonnent pas non plus de partager toujours les mêmes sentiments ou sensations. Elles savent très bien que lorsqu'une d'elles maigrit, l'autre aussi perd du poids, que leurs malaises sont souvent simultanés, que leurs goûts sont identiques: depuis toujours, elles s'habillent de la même façon, jouent avec les mêmes jouets, ont les mêmes activités extra-scolaires: piscine, piano, dont elles jouent exactement les mêmes morceaux. Lecture: elles lisent toujours les mêmes livres.

A l'école les notes ne varient quasiment pas de l'une à l'autre et leur moyenne est identique. Elles sont même capables de s'entraider pendant les examens, communiquant par la pensée sur tel ou tel exercice sans se voir ni se parler.

Tahani explique qu'elle n'est pas capable de faire quoi que ce soit si sa sœur n'est pas à côté d'elle. Elle ne peut ni travailler pour l'école, ni s'habiller, ni même manger. Sa sœur Hanadi, se sent perdue et craintive si Tahani est absente. «Nous ne sommes jamais disputées, confie l'une d'elles. Nous mangeons ensemble, nous dormons l'une à côté de l'autre, nous nous réveillons en même temps». A tel point que leur mère envisage de les marier à des frères jumeaux pour limiter leur séparation et leur sentiment de vivre des vies trop différentes, ce qu'elles ne supporteraient pas.

«Je sais que je fais partie de ma sœur et qu'elle fait partie de moi», affirme Tahani. Dotées du même physique et de voix et de comportements identiques, elles ont le sentiment de ne faire qu'une. «Beaucoup de nos proches ne cherchent même plus à nous percevoir d'une manière distincte. Peu importe qu'ils s'adressent à l'une ou à l'autre puisque nous nous représentons mutuellement».

Ossama Al-Qudah



Une seule personne est capable de les reconnaître et ne les a confondues qu'une seule fois depuis leur naissance, encore était-ce dans la pénombre de leur chambre à coucher et les voyait elle de dos. Il s'agit de leur mère. «Même si je suis couchée et qu'elles rentrent tard à la maison, je suis capable de distinguer les pas de Tahani de ceux de Hanadi. Je différencie très facilement leurs deux voix et, pour moi, leurs visages sont différents: Tahani a un air légèrement plus oriental que Hanadi, qui fait, elle, un peu plus occidentale». La mère raconte qu'à la naissance de ses deux filles, alors qu'elles se ressemblaient encore à 100%, elle parvenait à les reconnaître à l'odeur.

Les deux sœurs reconnaissent discernent entre elles qu'elles diffèrent psychologiquement. «Nous avons les mêmes idées et la même intelligence, explique Hanadi, mais nous présentons les choses un peu différemment». Pour sa sœur, ce qui les différencie principalement est qu'Hanadi est un peu plus timide qu'elle.

Autant de différences qui échappent totalement aux observateurs extérieurs. Même les projets d'avenir de l'une et de l'autre se superposent presque parfaitement. «La médecine m'intéresse beaucoup, et tout particulièrement la chirurgie cardiologique», explique Hanadi. Et Tahani réchérchit: «C'est aussi la médecine qui m'intéresse. J'aime bien les enfants, et je voudrais les aider en étant pédiatre».

«Vous voulez connaître le secret qui permet de nous distinguer objectivement l'une de l'autre, conclut Tahani et Hanadi à la fin de l'entretien. Eh bien, si vous mesurez la distance entre le bas du menton et le haut du front de chacune d'entre nous, vous trouverez une différence de trois millimètres».

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Fondation Shoman: une banque d'informations

La Fondation Abdel Hameed Shoman est située à Amman, dans le quartier de Shmeisani. Sa mission: encourager la recherche scientifique non seulement en Jordanie mais partout dans le monde arabe.

Selon le directeur de la section d'information, Ghassan Abdallah, deux catégories de projets bénéficient de son support financier: des projets que les savants proposent individuellement; et ceux que la Fondation s'efforce d'initier, dans la certitude qu'ils serviront le développement des pays arabes.

L'Institut porte le nom du fondateur de la Banque Arabe, Abdel Hameed Shoman. L'initiative fut prise en 1974, par l'administration de la banque, de créer un établissement pour l'aide scientifique. La première recherche démarra en 1980. Elle fut confiée au docteur Subhi Qassem, de l'université de Jordanie. C'était une étude sur le problème de l'alimentation dans le monde arabe, qui portait également sur des sujets connexes: ressources en eau, en terres, en énergie et en main d'œuvre.

En outre, des bourses furent créées pour l'appui des travaux jugés dignes d'intérêt. Neuf prix annuels pour la somme de 3.000 dinars. Chacune est décernée aux savants proposant des recherches intéressantes et âgées de moins de 40 ans. Depuis 1982, un ensemble de 72 bourses ont été distribuées. Cinquante pour cent de ces savants sont d'origine jordanienne.

Une deuxième catégorie de prix vise à encourager les enseignants scolaires des matières scientifiques. Chaque année, cinq bourses sont proposées pour les meilleurs projets d'enseignement aux niveaux élémentaire et secondaire.

Scientifique, la Fondation se veut aussi un centre d'activités culturelles au sens plus général. Des conférences et des films font partie du programme, et le public a accès à une bibliothèque de plus de 40.000 volumes. Une deuxième bibliothèque est consacrée aux enfants. Elle comprend à peu près 4.000 volumes. Dans les deux cas, on y accède sans la moindre cotisation.

Comme les savants et les enseignants, les 9.500 membres de la bibliothèque ont aussi leurs privilèges. Ghassan Abdallah explique que chacun a le droit de faire commander par la bibliothèque tous les livres qu'il souhaite, scientifiques, littéraires, informatiques, etc... «C'est notre façon de jager les intérêts de nos lecteurs et d'enrichir notre bibliothèque».

Une section des services de la Fondation -et le coin le plus fréquenté de l'établissement- est le centre informatique. Des gens de tous les âges, hommes, femmes et enfants, sont, du matin au soir, riviés aux terminaux. L'assortiment de programmes -de divertissement et d'instruction- est large. «Pas mal de jeunes prodiges jordaniens ont commencé ici», dit Ghassan Abdallah, un ancien, qui a 23 ans d'expérience de l'ordinateur derrière lui, et un des premiers jordaniens à avoir étudié cette nouveauté technologique.

En fait, l'ordinateur joue un rôle suprême dans l'organisation d'Abdel Hameed Shoman; il est même son centre nerveux. Il est au cœur des projets de l'établissement. Tout ce qu'il y a de livres et publications a été enregistré sur ordinateur. Ghassan Abdallah explique: «Plutôt qu'une simple bibliothèque, notre but est de devenir une banque d'information, où tous sont les bienvenus».

Sami Kamal

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

17h55 - Denver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.
18h10 - Un grand quelque'un. Court métrage sur un Togoïen qui rêve de devenir un homme important mais que tout le monde prend pour un fou.
18h30 - Ca c'est du cinéma. Série documentaire les techniques du cinéma.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Carnet de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

LUNDI

18h00 - Thalassa. «des grands voliers». Documentaire sur un voyage le long des côtes nord de la Méditerranée, à bord de l'«Emerald».
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h05 - Sous les ailes du Condor. Documentaire sur la vie dans les Andes, à plus de 1.000m d'altitude, et sur les Condors qui vivent dans ces montagnes.
18h35 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h05 - Les défis de l'océan. Série documentaire sur la vie sous-marine. Aujourd'hui: «des éponges».
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Sélection de musique classique.

JEUDI

18h15 - «Mollérissimo»: dessin animé.
18h40 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Pays baltes: la naissance d'une Nation.

VENREDI

17h35 - «Les lions du sang». Film. A l'âge de 19 ans, une jeune fille découvre qu'elle est un enfant adopté et part à la recherche de sa vraie mère. Ce qu'elle va apprendre sera le choc de sa vie.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Les révolutions de l'intelligence. Série documentaire sur l'histoire de la science. Aujourd'hui: l'interdépendance des nations sur les plans économique et industriel.

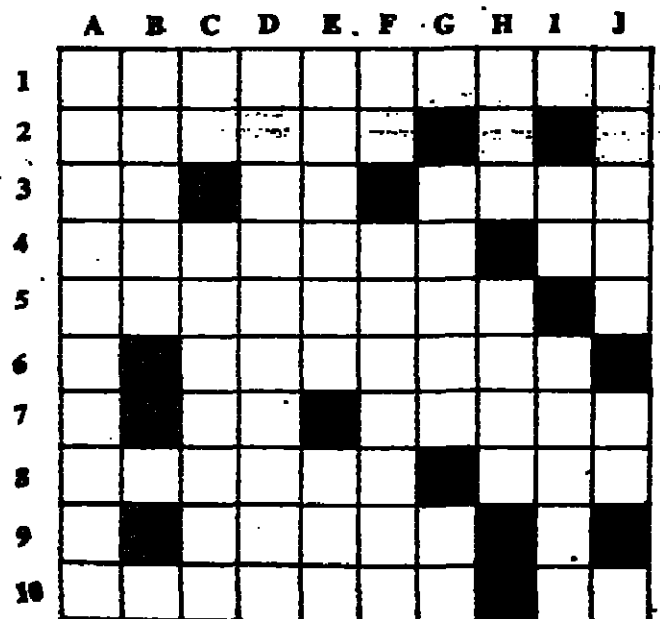
SAMEDI

18h00 - Images et réalités. Documentaire sur le sens de la vue. Aujourd'hui: le rôle des images dans les techniques de communication.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Documentaire: le développement de l'embryon chez les poissons osseux.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Mouton



Horizontalement.

1: devoir. 2: elles mènent toutes à Rome. 3: négation; deux latin; gîteur; 4: allonger; infinitif. 5: cohabiter. 6: autres. 7: lieu du soleil; au bout du sein. 8: tirer du lait. Ecole Nationale d'Administration. 9: se rendent. 10: on la demande aux enfants badois; coordonne.

Verticalement.

A: décorer. B: on y danse, on on y met les conserves. C: avant approuvé; pétrifié. D: chemin. E: le mari de son fils; de préférence après la stér. F: champion; de-mourant. G: rétrochir; prisonnier personnel. H: coiffe; boire à l'écou. I: dans la gamme; pallofume. J: rétrochir; mot caennais.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: obligation. 2: routes. 3: ni; in; père. 4: éduquer; er. 5: meublent. 6: troues. 7: RA; tison. 8: traire; ENA. 9: iron. 10: risette; et.

Verticalement.

A: ornementer. B: boire. C: ha; entraîn. D: indiquer. E: gendre. rot. F: se; restant. G: pense; le. H: tre; tête. I: ré; soane. J: miera, na.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

INSECTES. Crépitement lancinant de millions de mandibules, craquement sinistres qui donnent la chair de poule: l'Institut français de la recherche agronomique a édité un disque compact qui a peu de chances de figurer au hit-parade. Le disque, qui reproduit les différents bruits des insectes cachés dans les céréales, des chenilles qui rongent les fruits, ou des termites qui forent les bois, a pour but d'aider les professionnels à détecter à temps la présence des parasites et à choisir le pesticide en fonction de l'espèce, grâce à un capteur associé à un ordinateur.

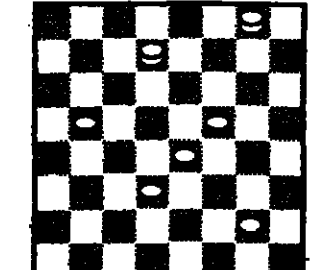
MICROCOSME. Huit personnes ont été sélectionnées pour passer deux ans dans un dôme hermétique au Texas, à l'intérieur duquel a été recréé un microcosme de la Terre divisé en sept sections écologiques: forêt tropicale, savane, océan, marais d'eau douce et salins, désert, région agricole et habitat humain. Le but de cette expérience, baptisée «biosphère» est d'étudier les moyens de vivre dans un univers coupé de la Terre.

TOMATES. Les «tomates de l'espace», obtenues par la culture de graines exposées aux radiations spatiales et que certains considéraient avec méfiance, ont obtenu la consécration en remportant le premier prix au concours de la foire horticole du Kansas.

DAMES

Problème N. 29.

Les blancs jouent en six coups.



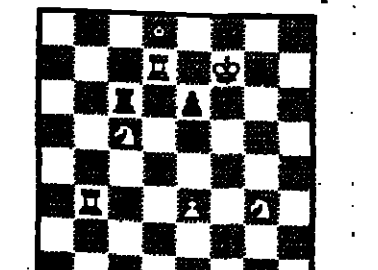
Solution du problème N. 28:

B. 27-22; N. 6-15; B. 22-6; N. 2-11; B. 25-18; N. 15-13; B. 9-18; N. 28-19; B. 5-10.

ECHECS

Problème N. 29.

Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 28:

C6-d4.

World Bank forecasts war in Gulf could double oil price

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — War in the Mideast could push oil prices to \$65 a barrel this year and next, the World Bank said Friday in predicting that oil would cost \$30-\$40 a barrel over the next five years.

"If efforts to defuse the existing crisis fail and war breaks out in the Middle East, Iraqi, Kuwaiti and Saudi oil fields could suffer long-lasting damage, effectively removing up to 10 million barrels a day from the world market," according to a report of the organization's International Economics Department.

"World oil prices would rise to unprecedented levels in 1990 and 1991, and would remain at \$30-\$40 a barrel for another five years or so," the report said.

The report, dated Sept. 12, was given to reporters Friday.

With the estimate came a chart of oil prices. It showed the price in a war situation rising to \$65, dropping to about \$45 in 1992 and then more slowly to the \$20 level by the year 2000. That is about where the price was before Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The bank said that under these conditions consuming countries would act strongly to cut their use of oil by conservation, increased efficiency and the use of other fuels.

"Shelved alternative energy projects would be dusted off and implemented, and petroleum exploration and development would reach new heights," the report said.

It added that if there were a short war countries in the Gulf would soon begin to rebuild their oil fields and arrange to produce more. It predicted that the efforts to cut demand would bear fruit in the second half of the 1990s. At the same time, increased spending to produce new supplies would bring results.

Those two elements could bring a lower price later in the decade than might be expected if there is no war, the chart indicated.

The war scenario was one of five developed by the bank's experts. The others were summarized as "rapid return to normal."

cy." They envisaged prices of \$30 a barrel or less to the end of the century.

The report listed 60 countries as most severely affected by the crisis and in need of help. These are countries that could lose more than two per cent of their exports or \$1 billion in their international accounts for any two years from now to 1992.

Among them are 24 countries in southern Africa, 19 in the Western hemisphere, 10 in Europe and the Middle East and seven in Asia.

Meanwhile, oil prices surged Friday to end a turbulent week around nine-year highs after President Saddam Hussein urged the Iraqi nation to prepare for a long war.

Market analysts saw potential for yet higher prices even if fighting did not break out. Oil is scarce because of United Nations sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait while the northern winter, season of peak fuel demand, is getting closer.

And oil companies and governments, fearing a war, are reluctant to draw too hard on petroleum stocks.

The world benchmark crude oil, British North Sea Brent blend, was quoted Friday at \$36.90 per barrel for early loading, highest since March 1981.

U.S. crude futures briefly rose above \$35, a gain on the day of almost \$1.70.

But the West's oil "watchdog" the 21-nation International Energy Agency (IEA), said Friday that its Paris-based secretariat was not at present proposing to draw on government strategic oil stocks or introduce measures to curb demand.

The IEA board of governors meets in Paris Sept. 28 for the third time since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

On the crude oil supply front, OPEC is making up at least three million barrels daily of some four million lost from Iraq and Kuwait, industry executives report.

But there is a shortage of refining capacity to process the

heavier grades of crude oil which it is providing. Some European refineries are shut for pre-winter maintenance.

Pump prices for petrol and heating fuel are rising — European gasoline prices hit all-time highs this week of \$430 per tonne compared with around \$290 Aug. 2.

Loss of supply from two big Kuwaiti refineries and strong Asian demand have tightened product markets. Petrol is making the unusual journey to Europe from the Americas.

"The Far East has finally woken up to the fact that it hasn't got any oil. I think you'll find quite a lot of oil moving out of Rotterdam," a trader with a European refinery said.

Heddi Varzi of London stockbrokers Kleinwort Benson said the IEA could release a little oil to show markets the system works.

"It would do no harm at all to offer stocks for auction in order to deflate the market's bullish psychology," Varzi said.

But some analysts say the chance to use stocks to balance markets in the October-December quarter may have been missed.

"The window of opportunity may have passed because, if the IEA market for a month," said Mike Barry of Energy Market Consultants in London. "Those products are needed now."

Varzi said that "if there is no action by the IEA and there is still a threat of military action then we are looking at a \$40 oil price."

The all-time record was just about \$40 in 1980 amid panic-buying triggered by the Iranian revolution and the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran Gulf war.

Although nominal prices are getting back close to that peak again now, inflation has eroded the real value of the barrel.

But former Saudi oil minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani says that if war does break out oil could go to \$60. Economists say that, in real terms, this would be close to the 1980 peak.

Chase Manhattan Bank announces 5,000 job cuts

NEW YORK (R) — Chase Manhattan Corp., reflecting serious problems facing the U.S. banking industry, said Friday it would slash 5,000 jobs and expected to lose about \$625 million in the third quarter.

The second-largest U.S. banking company announced that the loss would include an anticipated \$350 million restructuring cost. The company also announced it plans to set aside \$650 million for potential loan losses, largely because of its deteriorating commercial real estate portfolio.

A spokesman earlier Friday said rumours the bank was having liquidity problems were "absolutely false."

The cuts were much deeper than anticipated in June, when Chase said it would have to trim \$300 million in annual costs. Industry analysts had predicted about 3,000 job cuts.

Chase said it would cut its quarterly stock dividend to 30 cents, down from 62 cents, giving

investors an annual yield of about nine per cent based on Friday's stock price.

The announcement was the latest sign of problems in the U.S. banking industry, which has been hit by a severe slump in the real estate market and shaky loans to Third World debtors.

Chase said that as part of its restructuring it planned to dispose of low-yielding loans and investment securities.

The company said that about 1,600 employees accepted a voluntary separation offer last month. Chase said its overseas cutback would account for more than half the write off and about 1,600 of the lost jobs. The company said it would gain \$117 million from the sale of its Frankfurt office building, which it said closed last week.

Chase predicted a fourth-quarter net profit of more than \$140 million after setting aside \$170 million to \$200 million for loan losses.

Nicaragua plans to fire 25,000 state employees

MANAGUA (R) — The Nicaraguan government Friday unveiled an anti-inflation plan that calls for the firing of 25,000 of the country's 115,000 state employees over the next three months.

"We've got to grab the bull by the horns," said Economy Minister Silvio de Franco in announcing details of the plan. "We can't continue fooling ourselves."

He said that if measures were not taken soon, inflation was running at an annual rate of 5,000 per cent would accelerate.

De Franco said the government plans to let go 15,000 bureaucrats and employees of state firms and 10,000 members of the armed forces as part of a plan to bring the fiscal deficit under control by the end of the year. The deficit is the chief source of the country's inflation.

The government will try to aid the fired workers through

labour-intensive public works projects, promoting small businesses and temporary unemployment payments, he said.

The economic plan was detailed at a meeting of government, union and private sector officials called by the administration of President Violeta Chamorro to reach a consensus on how best to stabilise the economy and cut the deficit, which was about \$12 million in August alone.

The meeting was boycotted by unions affiliated with the leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which has opposed large-scale firings and said the government is selling the country to the International Monetary Fund.

Chamorro took office in April, ending 10 years of Sandinista rule.

Brazil liquidates state banks, loan associations

BRASILIA (AP) — The government ordered the closing and liquidation of four state banks and four official lending companies for "serious irregularities," the Brazilian central bank said Friday.

The decision affected the official state banks of Paraíba, Piauí and Rio Grande do Norte and the real-estate lending companies linked to those banks — the government savings bank of Goiás state, and a credit agency of the Rio Grande do Norte state bank.

"In each one, serious irregularities were found that compromised the institution's financial health," central bank spokesman Pedro Kleiberg told the AP.

The central bank did not give details. Gazeta Mercantil, Brazil's most respected financial daily newspaper, said the Bank of Piauí alone had an estimated \$50 million in uncovered debts.

The states of Paraíba, Piauí

and Rio Grande do Norte are in Brazil's poor northeast region. Goiás is in the rural Midwest, where the federal district of Brasília is located.

Kleiberg said the central bank will guarantee savings accounts deposits up to 2.7 million cruzeiros (about \$34,000).

Restitution of cash deposits will depend on a decision by the National Monetary Council, "because the bank will have to use money from its monetary reserves," he said.

Gazeta Mercantil quoted central bank president Ibrahim Eris as saying "the Brazilian financial system is cleaned up with these liquidations."

"The rest of the system enjoys perfect health," Eris said.

Rolls Royce profits rise

LONDON (R) — British aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce PLC has posted a 14 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for the first half of 1990.

Pre-tax profits rose to £115 million (\$214 million) from £101 million (\$188 million) in the same period last year on a turnover of £1.59 billion (\$2.96 billion) compared with £1.12 billion (\$2.8 billion).

Rolls-Royce said in a statement its cash flow was seriously affected by a delay in sales growth in the aftermath of a strike at the end of 1989. But it said production delays should be fully recovered by the end of this year.

It estimated that the strike at its Glasgow plant, along with one at a major customer, the Boeing Co. of Seattle, Washington, cost it £10 to £15 million (\$19 to \$30 million) in lost profits in the first half.

Sedki claims Egyptians left up to \$12b in Kuwait

CAIRO (R) — Egyptians left property and savings worth up to \$12 billion in Kuwait when they fled the Iraqi forces, Prime Minister Atef Sedki said.

In remarks published Saturday he said the figure was compiled from statements made by about 290,000 Egyptian workers who had returned home since Iraq seized Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Sedki said Kuwait's former rulers had promised to compensate about 150,000 Egyptians who worked in the emirate when Iraq invaded.

Egyptian press reports say the Kuwaitis pledged \$30 million in damages for those who did not wish to return to their jobs after "Kuwait is liberated."

Sedki said Iraqi debt to Egypt was \$466 million, including money owed to Egyptian workers and the national flag carrier

Egyptian. He said Baghdad offered to repay the debt in oil but did not say when. The figure did not include a military debt stemming from arms exports to Baghdad during its 1980-88 war with Iran.

Egypt stood firmly by Iraq during its war with non-Arab Iran, supplying it with millions of dollars worth of Egyptian-made arms, ammunition and military advisers.

Sedki said Cairo could not accept the Iraqi offer because of the international trade blockade of Baghdad.

He said Egypt's losses in foreign currency earnings for the financial year ending next June 30 were estimated at \$4.5 billion because of the end of remittances by Egyptian workers and falls in revenue from tourism and the

Suez Canal. He said the figure could rise if the Gulf crisis continued.

Budget expenditure in the current financial year would rise by 650 million pounds (\$236 million) to cover the cost of rehabilitating returning workers. A further 1.25 billion pounds (\$455 million) was needed to cover social services for them.

The government estimates that up to 600,000 Egyptians may return from the Gulf, further straining an economy burdened by \$50 billion in foreign debt. Sedki said economic aid promised by Western countries would help offset the losses.

A U.S. administration request to the Congress to write off \$7.1 billion in military debt owed by Egypt would save Cairo \$21.50 billion in total debt service, he added.

High war risk insurance rates trigger huff in Gulf countries

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Port, insurance and trade firms in the Gulf are unhappy these days over the hike in war risk rates on regional shipping, claiming that the U.S.-led multinational buildup is enough cover.

Invitations have gone out to insurance brokers of the Institute of London Underwriters and to Lloyd's of London "to come out and see for themselves," said Dick Benning, marketing manager of Dubai's Port Rashid.

With the outbreak of the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, war risk insurance rates spiralled. Some rates fell back here and there, and it is not possible to quantify the overall increase in rates because the Gulf is broken up into numerous areas for rate-setting purposes.

But local shipping agents said the hike was an average 2.5 per cent for a six-month period, or a 5.0 per cent increase over a year.

Benning and others said that despite the high war risk rate levied on shipping by the international underwriters, local ports report higher business than the same period last year.

Benning estimated that business at Port Rashid, the Gulf's most active port, has gone up by nine per cent since August, and while September's figures are not available, they too promised to be better than last year.

Dubai is a "no-risk zone," Benning said. "Everything is fine, therefore the huge insurance premium levied is unfair."

A top executive of a major Dubai-based insurance company who did not want to be named said it was too early to assess the effect of the crisis "because

rates are very, very high."

In London, a spokeswoman for Lloyd's, who would not be identified in accordance with British practice, said, "the underwriters are monitoring the situation very carefully. They're looking at the situation on a day-to-day basis and they react accordingly and they obviously have to exercise caution."

John Byrom, general manager of Bahrain Norwich Winterthur Insurance, noted that the high war risk rates mean it is costing regional merchants more to conduct trade.

Western financial experts point out that the worries are symptomatic of a much broader problem — with the Gulf crisis, trade has fallen off given higher freight and fuel costs, and the exodus of a yet undetermined number of the large expatriate community.

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orders that were placed before August are still coming."

Some of the shipments that were designated for Kuwait were also being unloaded at Port Rashid as exporters redesignated cargo to other Gulf markets. In some cases, they were taking them back to the port of origin.

Meanwhile the life insurance market is not feeling effects of the Gulf crisis — yet.

Keith Jansen, senior sales representative of American Life Insurance Co., one of the largest firms in the business in the United Arab Emirates, said there has been no drop in policies sold.

"We got a ruling from our head office (in United States) that there won't be an increase in the premium for this country as there is no war risk at present," Jansen said.

He said while this has no doubt helped, many people who did not believe in insurance "have now realised the value of it in times like this."

In Bahrain, insurance agents said they were flooded with inquiries for war risk cover, and not even the Iran-Iraq war triggered such a rush.

Mukhtar Ali, insurance representative at the Manama-based Taisho Marine and Fire Insurance Co. said the number of people calling about war coverage had "leapt since the Gulf crisis started."

Another lucrative sideline for insurance companies has been the sizeable increase in the volume of personal effects including motor vehicles shipped out after Iraq overran Kuwait.

Major tries to reassure currency markets after run on sterling

WASHINGTON (R) — British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) John Major, mounting a damage limitation exercise after a heavy run on sterling, said Friday the government had no intention of delaying Britain's full participation in the European Monetary System (EMS).

In an attempt to convince sceptical currency traders that the Gulf oil crisis and high inflation would not derail plans to join the exchange rate mechanism, Major said a decision would be made "as soon as sensibly possible."

"When I am satisfied that the conditions are right, I will make a proposal to cabinet and I expect cabinet will endorse that and we will enter," Major told journalists.

Major held out the prospect of a substantial decline in British inflation at a time when prices in other European Community (EC) nations — more heavily dependent on imported oil — would be rising.

That would narrow the gap between Britain's high inflation rate and the lower level in many other European nations, fulfilling London's main condition for

membership set out by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Madrid last year.

Major refused to say if that could be this year, saying: "We will have to wait and see." But his remarks appeared to be clearly aimed at leaving the door for membership open.

Foreign exchange markets have been obsessed by the timing of Britain's entry to the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), a system founded in 1979 to limit the fluctuations of currencies and which is already adhered to by nine EC nations.

Sterling had been climbing steadily since mid-May when it became evident that Thatcher was dropping her trenchant opposition, and effective veto, to the EMS and markets had recent-

ly been anticipating a move any weekend.

But the Gulf crisis — which helped push British inflation up to an eight year high of 10.6 per cent in August — threw the timing plan into doubt.

Comments by West German Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl and Thatcher this week appeared to confirm these doubts set the pound under heavy selling pressure, driving it down by five cents on the week against the U.S. dollar. The pound closed Friday at \$1.8435.

Major held out no hopes of an imminent cut in British interest rates and urged monetary authorities not to relax policy in the face of rising oil prices triggered by the Gulf crisis.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, September 22, 1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	699.0	663.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	461.7	484.6
Pound Sterling	1214.9	1222.2	Dutch guilder	370.5	372.7
Deutschemark	417.4	419.9	Swedish crown	114.0	114.7
Swiss franc	498.4	501.4	Italian lira (for 100)	56.1	56.4
French franc	124.8	125.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	203.1	204.3

TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Indiana Jones in TEMPLE OF DOOM

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

BIRDY

3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

BEVERLY HILLS COP Part II

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dured Lahham Madeline Tabar
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.
2-SENIOR WEEK
5:15, p.m.

Cinema **NIJOM** Tel: 675571

KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS (Arabic)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Liberians agree on ceasefire

ABIDJAN (R) — A ceasefire in the Liberian civil war was to begin at 1200 GMT Saturday, a spokesman for the main rebel leader Charles Taylor said.

Koulin Evariste, a spokesman for Taylor in neighbouring Ivory Coast, said the ceasefire agreement was reached at a meeting between Taylor and Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, in Liberia earlier this week.

"It was agreed during that meeting that there would be a ceasefire today," Evariste said by telephone from his home in Danane, in northwestern Ivory Coast.

A spokesman for Taylor's main rival, breakaway rebel leader Prince Johnson, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in a telephone call that Johnson also had agreed to a ceasefire.

U.S. diplomatic sources in Ivory Coast said Saturday they could not provide information about plans for a ceasefire that may have been worked out during Cohen's meeting with Taylor Wednesday and with Johnson in the Liberian capital Monrovia Tuesday.

Evariste said one of the main reasons Taylor had agreed to stop

fighting was in order to meet the rival rebel leader, whom Taylor claimed to have killed more than a month ago.

"The man claiming to be Prince Johnson is not Prince Johnson," Evariste said. "Prince Johnson was killed a month ago."

Reporters who were in Monrovia at the time Taylor claimed to have killed his rival said Johnson was alive and unharmed.

Evariste said he was optimistic that talks between the competing rebel groups could begin soon in a neutral country yet to be chosen.

He said he hoped the United States would play a major role in any talks to bring peace to the country founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

"With the United States involved, we can have peace," he said.

He said Sierra Leone, which served as the venue for several rounds of unsuccessful peace talks, would not be acceptable because of that country's involvement in the five-nation West African peace force now in Liberia.

He also rejected Gambia, whose President Dawda Jawara is president of the regional Econ-

omic Community of West African States which sent the peacekeepers to Liberia, and Guinea, which had close ties to the late President Samuel Doe.

Evariste said he did not expect the remnants of Doe's government, now under the control of General David Nimley, to be a major factor in any effort to bring an end to the nine-month-long civil war, which has degenerated into one of Africa's bloodiest tribal wars in years.

He said the main concern of Doe's remaining supporters was to evacuate remaining members of his Krahn tribe to safety outside the capital Monrovia.

Meanwhile diplomats and military sources said Friday a Nigerian general appointed to command ground operations of the West African peacekeeping force in Liberia will find it hard to end fighting in the capital Monrovia.

Nigerian sources in Freetown said Major-General Joshua Dogonyaro faced the same political and practical problems as Ghanaian General Arnold Quainoo, who has commanded the force since it landed in Monrovia a month ago.

A Nigerian government

spokesman in Lagos said Dogonyaro, a former member of Nigeria's Supreme Armed Forces Ruling Council, has been appointed to restructure the five-nation force called ECOMOG.

News of his appointment appeared to mean that he had replaced Quainoo as commander of the 4,000-strong force of troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Gambia.

But the Nigerian spokesman, Yusufu Mammam, said later that Quainoo retained overall command.

He said Dogonyaro would run the ground operations of ECOMOG, formed to impose a ceasefire in the civil war that has torn Liberia apart for the past nine months.

"Quainoo remains ECOMOG commander," Mammam told Reuters. "He has neither resigned nor been sacked."

There was no statement about Dogonyaro's appointment from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which set up the force last month. Diplomats in Lagos said the ECOMOG commander had to be a Ghanaian under the rules setting up the force.

Polish parliament calls for presidential elections

WARSAW (AP) — Parliament has overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for presidential elections no later than December and voted to consider dissolving itself more than two years early, possibly by March.

By a vote of 252-17, the Sejm, or lower parliament chamber, passed the general statement of intent following a sometimes heated two-day debate of Poland's political calendar. Fifty deputies abstained.

Specific legislation, including a proposed constitutional amendment to shorten the term of President Wojciech Jaruzelski, is to be considered — passage is considered certain — at the three-day parliamentary session that begins Thursday.

Polish newspapers Friday mentioned Nov. 25 and Dec. 2 as two possible presidential election dates. Under the pending legislation, the Sejm speaker would set the exact date.

Jaruzelski, the former Communist leader elected to a six-year term as president by parliament in July 1989, formally requested Wednesday that his term be shortened to satisfy public demands that he step down and allow direct presidential elections.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa is the only announced candidate. But Walesa's former adviser, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, is under pressure from supporters to run as the representative of his faction of the now-split Solidarity labour movement.

Government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska said Friday she had no comment on whether Mazowiecki will run.

Several other candidates also appear likely, representing some of the political factions that have emerged in Poland the past year.

While decided for a presidential vote before Dec. 31, the Sejm was less firm in calling for its own dissolution. Its resolution said "from the present perspective it seems possible" to dissolve the present Sejm and senate by the end of the first quarter next year.

The chambers were elected to four-year terms in the East Bloc's first partially democratic parliamentary elections in June 1989. The 100-member senate was freely elected, but the 460-member Sejm had 65 per cent of its seats reserved for the Communist Party and its allies.

The European Community will soon start negotiations with Poland on associate membership and agreement may be ready by the end of 1991, a top official of the 12-nation organisation said.

Yeltsin in hospital with concussion from crash

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has suffered concussion in a Moscow car crash and spent the night in hospital, an aide said Saturday.

Yeltsin, a major figure in the Soviet Union's growing political and economic crisis, was earlier reported to have escaped from the accident Friday with just bruises.

But his aide said he was released Saturday and was in good health. "He feels fine," she told Reuters.

Later, Yeltsin, who had a bruise on the right side of his head, had a different verdict. "Not so good," he told a reporter who asked about the state of his health.

He left hospital to sign a treaty with Soviet Moldova in the Russian Federation building in Moscow.

"I arrived just 15 minutes ago just to sign this treaty. But I am having difficulty seeing you all," he said, suggesting he felt dizzy.

"It is a matter of one week, and

after that, a lot of work without letup and without any after-effects. That is what the doctors said," Yeltsin said. "Thank God it happened this way, it could have been worse."

The 59-year-old leader of the Soviet Union's largest republic was sitting close to a door which took the impact of the collision. But a police spokesman said he stepped from the car apparently unhurt.

The Russian Federation's first deputy president, Ruslan Khasbulatov, told the republic's parliament Friday that Yeltsin sustained heavy bruising to the right hip and a light bruise on the head.

Yeltsin, a heavy-set man with a booming voice, has led a radical shift towards more reform in the country, throwing his enormous popularity behind an overhaul of the economic system.

In July he walked out of the Communist Party at its 29th congress, sparking a wave of similar defections by thousands of party members.

Baker, Shevardnadze plan major push on arms pacts

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze plan a major push to clear away obstacles to two key arms control treaties when they meet next week in New York, the State Department has said.

"One of the main things they will be discussing at this particular meeting will be CFE and START," said spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, referring to the Conventional Forces in Europe and Strategic Arms Reductions Treaties.

In addition, U.S. and Soviet arms control negotiators will be in New York for the entire week "and hopefully they will be able to move this forward and get some of the problems out of the way," she said.

Tutwiler gave no date for the Baker-Shevardnadze talks but the two ministers plan to meet while they are in New York for the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly.

President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have both said they would like to sign the CFE treaty, reducing conventional forces in Europe, and the START pact, slashing long-range nuclear arsenals, this year.

James Woolsey, chief U.S. negotiator at the Vienna CFE talks, told a conference in Brussels Friday that the CFE treaty may not be completed as planned before a 35-nation summit in Paris — the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe — set for Nov. 19.

"I cannot tell you whether or not we will be completed by Nov.

19," Woolsey said. "I do not know. It is still hanging in the balance."

His assessment was the most pessimistic to come recently from high-level U.S. officials.

The United States has insisted that the CSCE summit can not take place unless the CFE treaty is ready for signing.

Tutwiler, asked if the State Department endorsed Woolsey's view, told reporters: "I find that hard to believe, if he's quoted on the record saying that."

But she added: "We have acknowledged and have said all along, and Secretary Baker just most recently did in Moscow, that there's some work to be done and it's going to be very difficult."

A senior U.S. official, in Moscow with Baker last week for talks with Shevardnadze and others, said of the CFE treaty: "A treaty can be done but we can't stall for long."

During that visit, Shevardnadze and Gorbachev said they would soon make some new CFE proposals. Tutwiler said that if any proposals had been given to U.S. negotiators, she was not aware of them.

President Bush, in another round of superpower talks on the Gulf, may meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze when they visit the United Nations, administration officials said Friday.

Bush and Shevardnadze also could discuss arms control negotiations, trying to spur completion of an agreement to cut back on non-nuclear forces in Europe.

The president will be in New York from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

Attackers kill 3 blacks, derail train in South African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Attackers killed three blacks and derailed a train coach in South African political violence, but a security clampdown kept most black townships quiet, police said Saturday.

The victims included a pregnant woman and a policeman. The train carriage went off the tracks after it was stoned.

Townships around Johannesburg, a focus of factional fighting in recent weeks, remained calm Saturday, and police said a week-long lull was partly due to operation "iron fist" ordered last weekend by President F.W. de Klerk.

De Klerk starts a U.S. visit this weekend seeking to improve relations with Washington after years of friction. He and anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela plan talks to create a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

More than 750 people have died in an eruption of fighting between members of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and those of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the past six weeks.

A four-year virtual civil war between the two movements in Natal province has killed more than 4,000 people.

In an effort to halt the carnage Mandela and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi are to meet early next month.

The new "iron fist" security measures include the sealing off of Zulu hostels with razor wire, a heavy army presence in black urban areas and the installation of light machine-guns on police patrol vehicles.

Police said there were still "elements" planning murder, violence, destruction and anarchy.

The woman died and two others were wounded when two hand-grenades were hurled into a house in the black township of KwaMashu in Natal province.

A black policeman was robbed of his revolver and shot dead in Inanda, Natal province, while on his way to report for duty at the township's riot unit, police said.

Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok said earlier this month 432 policemen had been killed and 25,000 injured while on duty since 1984.

A man was found stabbed and shot to death in Tembisa township east of Johannesburg. Nobody was injured when the train coach went off the tracks near Johannesburg after it was stoned.

The government Friday announced details of a dusk-to-dawn curfew in several Johannesburg townships in a further bid to stamp out the violence.

Residents of two Soweto districts marched on the township's municipality offices to protest against the security measures.

They presented a protest petition to Soweto Mayor Sam Mkwana and demanded the demolition of hostels, the prosecution of all those committing acts of violence, and the involvement of residents in monitoring political unrest.

"The measures introduced by the government are not actually addressing the very problem of violence but rather hamper free political activity. The community would defy curfews," Soweto leader Baba Schalk told the marchers.

Soviets to open most nuclear sites for inspection

VIENNA (AP) — The Soviet Union has agreed to open up most of its non-military nuclear sites to international inspection and to set up an International Nuclear Research Centre near the site of the Chernobyl disaster.

According to the agreement, international research teams at the Pripyat Centre in the western Republic of Ukraine will work with Soviet scientists on developing large-scale decontamination techniques and compiling full health data on the local populations.

The agreement was signed by Soviet, Ukrainian and Belarusian delegates attending International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 34th general conference. About 300 delegates attended the meeting of the United Nations agency. A total of 113 nations are members of the IAEA.

The nuclear accident at Chernobyl in April 1986 killed at least 31 people and spewed radioactive waste across much of the world.

The full extent of the damage around the plant is still unknown. Some reports have said hundreds of those who worked to clean up the site have since died.

During the conference, South Africa offered to sign the non-proliferation treaty that would commit it to not making or possessing nuclear weapons, once other countries in southern Africa did the same.

As in past years, the final plenary meeting passed a resolution critical of South Africa's refusal to open its nuclear plants to IAEA inspectors seeking to ensure that nuclear waste was not being diverted for the manufacture of weapons.

But the language of the resolution was less critical than in the past. It said the conference "deplores" South Africa's attitude, instead of the "vehemently condemnations" of last year.

Aquino vows not to quit despite looming unrest

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino vowed Saturday not to resign despite threats by labour groups to launch a general strike in protest against the government's raising of petrol prices.

"Our critics tell us that President Aquino will not last much longer. I vow that I will not resign and will stay in office until the end of my term" in 1992, Aquino said in a speech in Manila.

Aquino said her government could thwart any attempt by army rebels to use the price increases as a rallying point to launch a coup attempt.

"We have to defend democracy from those who want to grab power by force. We have to be united and must believe in the capacity of the Filipino to triumph over all the difficulties facing us today," she said.

Labour groups led by the May 1 Movement and the New Nationalist Alliance said Saturday they would launch a nationwide strike Monday to protest against the increase in petrol prices by an average of 32 per cent.

Officials said the increase would spur inflation and lead to higher unemployment.

Military camps were placed on alert following threats by army rebels to launch a coup against Aquino, whom they accuse of inept leadership and tolerating corruption among her relatives and political allies.

The Philippines, which does not produce its own oil, has been badly affected by steep rises in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis. The government is also hard pressed to find work for thousands of Philippine workers who lost jobs in the Gulf.

A string of natural disasters this year has further hobbled the economy. A drought damaged crop production early this year and a devastating earthquake in July toppled buildings and factories across large parts of the main island of Luzon.

Five typhoons in five weeks have flooded large parts of Manila and nearby provinces, hampering rehabilitation efforts in earthquake-damaged areas.

India postpones Punjab elections

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The government has decided to postpone elections in the state of Punjab, where Sikh militants are waging a separatist war, officials said Saturday.

The decision, adopted at a late-night cabinet meeting Friday, requires a constitutional amendment to extend federal rule of the state, in effect since May 1987. Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who favoured an election to reinstate a local government, failed to reach a consensus among the parties allied to his National Front government.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the government will convene a special session of parliament on Oct. 1 to amend the constitution to sanction a further six-month extension of federal rule, formally known as president's rule.

Under Indian law, the federal government may proclaim a state of emergency and take over a state's administration for up to three years by seeking the approval of parliament every six months.

Each extension beyond three years requires a constitutional amendment passed by a two-thirds majority.

Friday's decision was taken after prolonged consultations between Singh's minority National Front, its leftist and rightist allies and the largest opposition group, the Congress Party.

The front's allies said the situation in Punjab was not conducive for the polls. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party left its position unclear.

Congress support is necessary to push through the amendment. If the proposed legislation fails, the government will have to announce a polling date before Oct. 6.

The local parties in Punjab oppose federal rule, but some factions have indicated they would boycott any election unless the federal government grants more autonomy to the Sikh territory.

Pearl Harbour attack inspired by novel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The admiral who planned Japan's 1941 surprise attack on Pearl Harbour got the idea from a British novel, says a new book examining U.S. and Japanese strategy early in World War II.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who insisted on the attack that destroyed much of the United States' Pacific Fleet at its base, based his strategy on a book that had Washington buzzing when he was Japanese naval attaché here in 1926-28, says author William H. Honan.

The 1925 novel, *The Great Pacific War* by Hector C. Bywater, begins with a surprise Japanese attack in 1931 that wipes out much of the U.S. Asiatic fleet.

Honan's book, *Bywater: The Man Who Invented the Pacific War*, went on sale this month in England. It is to appear in the United States in February under the title: *The Man Who Knew Too Much: How Hector C. Bywater Invented the Great Pacific War*.

Bywater was a British secret agent in Germany who later be-

came a leading expert on the world's navies in the pre-jet age, when national strength was measured in battleship tonnage.

From 1920 to 1940, he wrote for newspapers and magazines on both sides of the Atlantic and published several books.

It was more than coincidence that the course of the war was predicted in Bywater's novel, says Honan, currently the New York Times' chief cultural correspondent.

Honan presents exhaustive research carried out in Europe, the United States and Japan intended to show that Bywater's writings profoundly influenced Japanese strategists led by Yamamoto.

The Great Pacific War was translated into Japanese and for a time was required reading for Japanese navy officers. It also inspired Japanese imitations that switched endings and had the Japanese winning the war.

Yamamoto spent a year at Harvard University in 1919 and returned to the United States as naval attaché.

Back in Japan, Yamamoto in a lecture "adopted Bywater's ideas

as his own," Honan says, and in 1941 threatened to resign with his entire staff to force the general staff to accept his plan "to eradicate the American naval presence" in mid-Pacific at the start of the war.

This was precisely Bywater's conception, and Yamamoto enhanced it with massed aircraft carriers and their planes, "the daring tactical innovation" of Japanese naval air chief Minoru Genda, Honan contends.

Yamamoto followed Bywater "so assiduously in both overall strategy and specific tactics at Pearl Harbour, Guam, the Philippines and even the Battle of Midway that it is no exaggeration to call Hector Bywater the man who invented the Pacific War," he writes.

Unlike more optimistic imperial admirals, Yamamoto hedged on assuring the government it could win a long war with the United States. Quoting the late Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoye's diary, Honan says Yamamoto told his superiors, "if you insist on my going ahead, I can promise to give them hell for

a year or a year and a half, but can guarantee nothing" beyond.

This was as if Yamamoto "had cribbed his answer from the great Pacific War" in which Japanese strength began eroding after 18 months, Honan continues.

The U.S. navy also drew on Bywater's thinking, Honan says. Bywater's book exposed the folly of the U.S. contingency "War Plan Orange" in which the navy would rush reinforcements across a hostile ocean in a reckless effort at quick recovery of the Philippines, he says.

Bywater had the U.S. fleet being intercepted and "severely mauled," prompting the United States to redesign "a carefully planned step-by-step advance to Manila across a bridge of islands in the Marshall and Caroline chains. It was the first time a naval expert had publicly spelled out such a campaign" of amphibious landings, says Honan.

Bywater felt a Pacific war would be "a terrible and protracted struggle," and hoped his writings would help influence events "in the direction of peace rather than of war," Honan says.



Financial woes silence renowned Buffalo orchestra

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Instead of Hector Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra will open its season this weekend with the sound of silence. The orchestra, often ranked among the nation's top 10 musically, has become the latest in a series of big-city symphonies forced to pack their instruments away, at least temporarily, by money shortages.

Its winter season, which was to have started Saturday, was indefinitely postponed after the musicians refused to consider contract concessions the orchestra, which is already \$2 million in debt, said it needed to erase another \$1.5 million budget gap projected for this year. "My guess is that if several more weeks go by and there is no movement on the part of the musicians, I think we'll shut it down for the season," Andrew J. Rudnick, the orchestra's board president, said. "We must have a balanced budget," said Executive Director Edna Wolf. "We see no recourse other than to cut expenses in the music-making part of it." The theme is one heard from coast to coast. The New Orleans Symphony went through a 14-month shutdown two years ago and has canceled the first few weeks of this fall's season under an austerity plan. Symphonies in Detroit, Denver, and San Antonio also have been silenced for months after musicians rebelled against drastic pay cuts. Even the mighty Philadelphia orchestra has not been immune. A last-minute contract settlement this week averted a musicians' strike, but the orchestra has had to boost its fund-raising efforts 10 per cent to make up for sharp cuts in city and state funding, said spokeswoman Bonnie Arnold.

During that visit, Shevardnadze and Gorbachev said they would soon make some new CFE proposals. Tutwiler said that if any proposals had been given to U.S. negotiators, she was not aware of them.

President Bush, in another round of superpower talks on the Gulf, may meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze when they visit the United Nations, administration officials said Friday.

Bush and Shevardnadze also could discuss arms control negotiations, trying to spur completion of an agreement to cut back on non-nuclear forces in Europe.

The president will be in New York from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

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